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# Playground and Recreation

JANUARY, 1930

Leisure and Contentment	By Mrs. Thomas A. Edison
Drift or Mastery?	By Mrs. Eugene Meyer
Recreation and Farming	By William Butterworth
Richer Uses of Music in Recreation	By Augustus D. Zanzig
The Place of Art in Recreation	By Samuel S. Fleisher
Standards in Playground Apparatus	
Sports for Sport	By Farnsworth Crowder
February Parties	

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# Playground and Recreation

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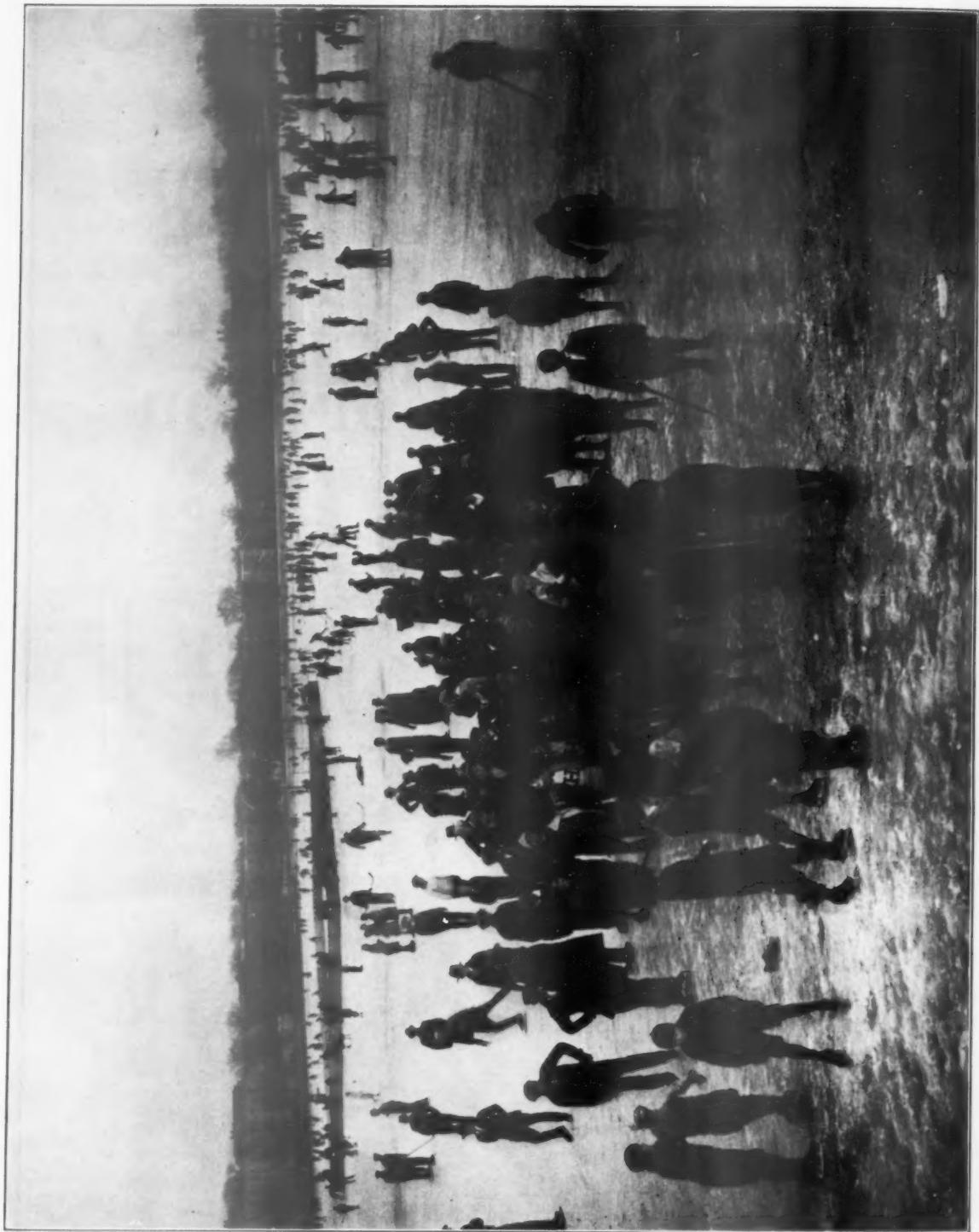


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WINTER IN FRANKLIN PARK, BOSTON

# Playground and Recreation

## World at Play

**Cincinnati Votes Emphatic "Yes"!**—On November 5th the citizens of Cincinnati, Ohio, voted on the issuing of bonds to the amount of \$12,000,000 for city improvements of various kinds including \$1,000,000 for parks and boulevards and a second million for the replacement of the city's beautiful Lincoln Park to be used as an entrance to the new terminal. There was also submitted a bond issue for \$1,000,000 for recreation. All of the bond issues passed, the bond for recreation securing a vote of four to one. The Public Recreation Commission which for a number of years has been working on a comprehensive plan of expansion, will immediately secure a number of new playgrounds and buildings and will construct many needed facilities. The result of the voting testifies overwhelmingly to the vision of the citizens of Cincinnati and the effectiveness of the work of the Public Recreation Commission, Park Commission and other municipal bodies.

**Successful Referendum in Mansfield, Ohio.**—Mansfield, Ohio, with an estimated population of 42,000, on November 5th held a successful referendum vote for the sum of \$7,200 for recreation.

**On His Record As a Recreation Mayor.**—The campaign literature recently issued by a mayor in an eastern city running for re-election as a candidate on an independent ticket contained forty-seven specific reasons why the citizens of his community should vote for him. Of this number nine cited the establishment of parks and recreation facilities as cogent reasons for voting for the candidate.

**For the Boys of Chicago in Memory of a Playmate.**—“The type of memorial which I desire my trustees shall establish shall be a fitting

memorial to perpetuate the memory of my son who would desire that any memorial in his name should be one that would give pleasure, help and encouragement to boys as he in his life time gave sympathy and encouragement to his playmates.”

Thus the late Jacob Franks of Chicago, outlined in his will the nature of the \$100,000 memorial to be established in memory of his son, Bobby Franks. Announcement has been made, according to the Chicago Tribune of September 18th that the American Boys' Commonwealth will be made the beneficiary of the memorial. One-half of the sum will be devoted to improving equipment through a club house to replace the present structure and a new athletic field at the summer camp of the organization at Wooster Lake, Illinois. The remainder of the bequest will be used as a fund from which will be taken from time to time sums needed to assist more boys and young men to take advantage of the club and the camp privileges.

Such a contribution to the happiness of the boys of Chicago is indeed a fitting memorial.

**Child Labor Day.**—Child Labor Day will be celebrated January 25th in synagogues; January 26th in Sunday Schools and churches, and January 27th in clubs and other organizations. Any group desiring to present a timely program on Child Labor Day is urged to write for speakers' information, literature, posters, plays and photographs, to the National Child Labor Committee, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

**In the Opinion of a Judge.**—Judge Everett Smith in charge of the Juvenile Court of King County, Washington, states that American boys and girls are better morally than ever before; that one of the most effective ways of preventing children from committing law violations is through the creation of more playgrounds and

the employment of a larger number of play leaders.

**Winter Program for Oglebay Park.**—In a very attractive booklet the Wheeling, West Virginia, Park Commission operating Wheeling Park and Oglebay Park, tells of its winter program at Oglebay Park. It outlines the work of the park naturalist who is working with the schools in developing nature study; of the music supervisor who cooperates with local groups in arranging for community orchestras, ukulele clubs and similar activities and develops a vocal music program, and of the camp supervisor in charge of planning for camping in the park. One of the newest departments of the park organization is that of the community recreation adviser whose program is designed to stimulate the use of facilities in the park for community groups and who is in charge of the community theatre at the park. The staff also includes the director of the nursery and arboretum who devotes a part of his time for community beautification projects. Planting materials are available at low cost for school grounds and community buildings and plans are furnished community groups wishing assistance in the landscape improvement of public grounds.

**Winter Sports in Southern California.**—Winter sports at Camp Seeley and other mountain playgrounds in southern California will be actively promoted on a larger scale than ever before this season, following the organization of the Southern California Winter Sports Association at a meeting of representatives of the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department, the county department of recreation camps and numerous recreation resorts. The new association will foster the building of ice skating ponds, toboggan slides and skiing places, will aid in keeping the roads clear of snow and will give publicity to winter activities in the southern California mountains. The Playground and Recreation Department of Los Angeles recently approved an appropriation of \$2,465 for the construction of an ice skating pond, ski jumps and toboggan slides at Camp Seeley and for the remodeling of cabins to make them suitable for winter use.

**Going Into Winter Quarters.**—The clang of horseshoes will once more re-echo through the Coopersdale Fire Department Building, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, which has been vacant for a

number of years. Through the efforts of the Recreation Commission this old building is being transformed into a horseshoe pitching court for the use of the Municipal Horseshoe League which during the summer played on courts underneath the grand stand at the stadium. Stalls are being torn out of the rear of the building and play field boxes will be placed to hold the pegs. In re-modeling the building economy is the watchword! Nickel grills which once adorned the windows of the city jail will be placed over the windows of the first floor, and a guard fence to protect spectators is being constructed from bars used in the old jail cells.

**In the Milwaukee Social Centers.**—Chief Little Moose and Evergreen Tree visited thirteen of the Milwaukee social centers in October and November and delighted the members with their entertainment of Indian dances, songs, legends and bird song imitations. Another interesting event at the centers was the two weeks visit of N. W. Banks, National Match Checker Champion, who appeared at the different centers giving demonstrations and instruction in playing checkers.

**Model Aircraft for Girls.**—The Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department has organized a girls model aircraft club which will be a full fledged member of the Los Angeles Miniature Aircraft League. Twenty girls attended the first meeting. Members of the club will construct and fly their own model airplanes and will compete against playground boys in the various model aircraft meets fostered by the city.

**Municipal Recreation and the Churches.**—The Recreation Department of the Board of Education of Rockford, Illinois, is successfully carrying out a plan of cooperation with the churches of the city. For its winter program the Department has the use of eight gymnasiums for late afternoon and evening work, and in these gymnasiums Leo Lyons, Director of Recreation, is providing for the regular athletic teams as well as activities in music, drama and social recreation. The eight churches have recently organized athletic and social recreation groups which they are sending to Mr. Lyons for schedule at the gymnasium nearest each church. There are now several leagues made up of these church groups which are playing on regular schedules at the gymnasiums and which are also playing with other leagues in the city.

**An Additional Gift to Niles.**—On July 24th, Jacob Waddell, of Niles, Ohio, gave the city fifty-two acres of land for park purposes. In September Mr. Waddell increased this acreage by an additional gift of twenty-three acres. The combined tracts include a heavily wooded section suitable for picnic grounds. Work has been started on an athletic field and the property is being rapidly put in shape. The land is now on the outskirts of the city but as the city grows it will become a most valuable interior park and play field.

**For the Recreation of the People of Jackson.**—Jackson, Michigan, is to have a 450 acre park through the generosity of Captain and Mrs. William Sparks. The project will involve an expenditure of more than \$300,000 which will be made through the William and Matilda Sparks Foundation. The first stipulation of the donors is that the park shall be open and free to the public without reservation. The project will mean the transformation of low and unused farm land into an unusually beautiful park. There will be a lofty tower, an extensive amphitheatre, a large fountain, sparkling cascades, glistening pools and curving canals and lagoons. The amphitheatre, which will seat 15,000 people, will be erected on the west side of the hill and in this section there will be swimming and wading pools and toboggan slides. The tower, which will be 200 feet high, will have a museum on one floor and a chapel on another. Completion of the project will require two or more years and the preparation of the park will be administered by the trustees of the Foundation, who are the Sparks Family. The tract will eventually be given to the city of Jackson together with an endowment fund.

**Boston to Have More Playgrounds.**—The Mayor's Committee on Parks and Playgrounds of the city of Boston has presented a report to the mayor which has resulted in making available \$400,000 for a program of new parks and playgrounds in all sections of the city. The mayor has signed an order which calls for the expenditure of \$21,000 to purchase five acres of land in the Dunbar Avenue district.

**A Park for Haverhill, Massachusetts.**—The city government and the War Memorial Commission of Haverhill are the recipients of eighteen acres of land to be known as Memorial



Photograph by Bachrach

JACOB WADDELL, DONOR OF NILES' PARK

Park. The gift was made by Mrs. Theresa Tilton who has also given an eleven-story brick tower which will be painted white and equipped with a flashing beacon to guide aviators.

**Waco, Texas, Reports.**—The yearly report of the Waco, Texas, Department of Recreation, October 1, 1928 to October 1, 1929, shows an emphasis on handcraft activities in the program of the summer playgrounds and of the girls' clubs. The total number of articles and toys made on the playgrounds was 2,302.

Coping saw articles .....	1058
Rubber inner tube articles .....	167
Soap carving .....	63
Oil cloth dolls, rabbits, etc. ....	85
Paper boats, flower baskets, flowers .....	95
Picture frames from Ruff Cote ..	97
Doll furniture (pieces) .....	200
(full suites for different rooms)	
Woodwork articles .....	93
(stools, magazine racks, what-not racks)	
Cloth articles .....	14
Kindergarten Department (all forms of kindergarten-made articles) ..	430

Two of the girls' clubs made purses from wool thread, painted handkerchiefs and vases, wool

tapestries, turtle pillows from oil cloth, picture framing in Ruff Cote, embroidered pillows and scarfs.

**Industrial Recreation in Los Angeles.**—The Industrial Division of the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department is reaching 350 industrial and mercantile firms. In the fall program special attention was given to sports for women and girls including golf, archery, aquatics and mountain hikes.

**Adult Education and Radio Broadcasting.**—Announcement has been made by the American Association for Adult Education, 41 East 42nd Street, New York, that a six months survey has been undertaken to determine the possibilities of radio broadcasting for adult education. The study has been made possible by funds supplied by the Carnegie Foundation of New York. The survey is a part of the Association's policy of fostering public interest in educational opportunities for those of mature age.

**A Recreation Training Institute.**—From November 6th to December 10th the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Recreation Commission, held its fifth annual recreation leaders institute. Classes met each Tuesday evening at 7:30 and any individual over sixteen years of age was eligible to enroll on payment of a \$2.00 fee, charged to cover the cost of printed lessons and other materials. The courses of instruction included singing and dancing games, quiet games, hymn leading, song leading, suggestions for accompanists, children's games, relay games, pantomimes, charades, storytelling, make-up, dramatic stunts, program making, science of game, decoration for recreation parties, home play, game equipment, out-door recreation, handcraft for boys and girls.

**Five Cents per Playground Unit Cost.**—“For the price of a candy bar or a package of gum, a Los Angeles child can be protected from street traffic, enjoy hours of happy play under wholesome leadership and learn lessons in good citizenship.” This statement comes from the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department as the result of a study of per capita costs recently made. This study shows an expenditure by the city of 5.671 cents every time an individual makes use of one of the municipal playgrounds. The report is based on figures for attendance and

expenditures at all city recreation centers for the past fiscal year. Similar low unit costs were shown for other types of recreation besides playgrounds.

**Know-Your-Country-Games.**—The Know-Your-Country-Games are a new newspaper feature which is being issued by the American Legion as a part of its good citizen activities. This new feature which is being furnished to one newspaper in each city without charge, consists of thirty question and answer games of ten questions each running in the newspapers each day for thirty days. All questions are based on a knowledge of the United States including geographical and historical features. A few typical questions follow:

What state has the largest annual value of crops?

In what state was the first settlement by white men?

Name the five great lakes — etc.

By the time a newspaper reader has answered thirty sets of questions of this type he will know something about his country.

Further information may be secured from the National Americanism Commission, national headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.

**A Home Beautiful Service.**—The Park and Recreation Department of Altoona, Pennsylvania, is running in one of the local papers a Home Beautiful Service which is creating much interest. To date eight articles have appeared on various features of home gardening and beautification. One, for example, has to do with the planting of bulbs, the preparation of the soil and similar details. The other paper is carrying a Party and Social Service appearing from time to time according to the season. At Hallowe'en suggestions were offered for parties and stunts and in addition during the week preceding Hallowe'en stunts and activities were broadcast over the local station.

**Ogden, Utah, Enlarges Program.**—“From one playground in 1928 to five centers in 1929.” These figures give some picture of the extension of playground service in Ogden, Utah. Over 600 people daily patronized the renovated South Washington swimming pool and the swimming tournament held in August with its parade of beautiful floats, designed and built by the children, was a memorable occasion. This year, Ogden had its first story telling festival when

hundreds of children and their parents gathered at sundown to hear nine costumed storytellers tell their stories of all times and all peoples.

**Worcester's New Golf Club.**—The Parks and Recreation Commissioners of Worcester, Massachusetts, have completed a nine hole golf course at Green Hill Park and with it a new club house, fifty-four by eighty-eight feet. The material used for the basement is of stone taken from the quarry in the park; the walls of the upper floor are boarded and shingled and the roof is of tar and gravel. In the basement there are two locker rooms for men, fourteen by thirty-seven feet with toilets and five showers, drying room, eight by eighteen feet, a large boiler room with a tank having a capacity of 500 gallons of water, and a large storeroom twenty-eight by thirty-eight feet. The upper floor contains a locker room for women, fifteen by thirty-seven feet with toilets and three showers, locker room for men the same size with toilets and five showers, a cafeteria with modern equipment and a large lounging room thirty-six by forty feet.

**Training in Social Recreation Leadership.**—During the fall and early winter the Department of Recreation of Pontiac, Michigan, conducted a course in social recreation leadership. There was an enrollment of forty-eight with an average attendance of about forty people who came together once a week for six weeks. Each evening there was a program consisting of a fifteen minute talk, fifteen minutes of singing and one-half hour of social games, largely of mixer type but including folk dances. One evening was devoted to Hallowe'en programs. Nearly every member of the group was actively leading in some organization, for the most part churches. The subjects of the discussions and addresses were, *Character Building Qualities That Make for Recreation Leadership, Community Singing and Sources of Material*. The staff of the Recreation Department, members of the high school faculty, leaders in local organizations and the district representative of the P. R. A. A. assisted in the discussions and game leading.

**Pay Entertainments.**—The Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department has issued the following notice to members of the staff: "In the future, no permits will be granted to playground clubs for money raising entertainments,

the proceeds of which are used to defray the expenses of club activities. This includes benefits to raise money for entry fees, uniforms and other team supplies. Permits for money raising events will be considered only where the proceeds are used to provide some facility or service for the playground itself."

**Hiking in Elmira.**—The Recreation Commission of Elmira, New York, is conducting hikes which are both recreational and educational. About forty adults under the leadership of a volunteer go out into the open country each Sunday afternoon.

**Popular Playgrounds in Saginaw.**—Two of the most popular playgrounds in Saginaw are on properties surrounding the Arbeiter Hall and the Germania Hall, centers of the social life of Saginaw's citizens of German descent. The buildings, about fifty years old, contain gymnasiums, music rooms, bowling alleys and game rooms and are in active use by members of the Association. The properties surrounding the buildings, a little less than an acre in each case, have many beautiful trees and are situated in the old and congested sections of the city where the schools do not have open spaces and there are no parks. No longer used as they once were as gardens for spending an afternoon or evening listening to music and eating and drinking, their possibilities as playground areas were evident. Therefore, when the city offered to remit the taxes on the land if it was turned over to the Recreation Department for use as summer playgrounds for the younger children, an agreement was quickly reached.

**An Essay Contest in Alton, Illinois.**—The Playground and Recreation Commission of Alton, Illinois, last summer held an essay contest for children under sixteen years of age who were regularly enrolled in a playground. The subject of the essay, which could not be over 500 words in length, was, *What the Alton Summer Playgrounds Mean to Me*. Members of the Board of Directors served as judges and playground letters were awarded the winner by the Alton Kiwanis Club.

**Nature Study Picture Cards.**—Dr. E. L. Crandall, formerly Chairman of the Visual Instruction Department of the N. E. A. and author and lecturer on visual instruction, has prepared a series of nature study cards arranged in sets,

all beautifully and accurately colored and carrying appropriate descriptive matter. One set, for example, is devoted to flowers, another to birds, a third to animals, etc. The cards are very effective and attractive and accompanying them is a booklet of fifty pages on *Visual Instruction in Nature Study* prepared by Dr. Crandall for the use of teachers. This material has been issued by the Coca Cola Company and may be secured free of charge from local Coca Cola bottlers or from the headquarters of the Company at Atlanta, Georgia.

**A Twenty-five Acre Playground.**—The town of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, is the proud possessor of a large playground, twenty-five acres in extent, which is well laid out and equipped. During the summer 37,563 people took part in the athletic events, games, club activities, picnics and tournaments which were held there. At the end of the season a romper day was held.

**A Gift for Music.**—The Park Department and the Community Music Association of Denver, Colorado, are rejoicing over the gift of \$36,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence G. White for a new outdoor theatre which will be a center for music and art. The new theatre which is being constructed on the site of the present outdoor music bowl will have a seating capacity of 6,000.

**Music for Small Groups.**—Carl Fischer, Incorporated, music publishers of New York, Boston, and Chicago, have recently published the first issues of a new series of ensemble works for wind instruments. This series promises to be extremely valuable. The greatest source of delight in music is in singing or playing in a small group, especially in the informal atmosphere of the home. The richest result of the tremendous development of interest in music and of the very much larger number of boys and girls who are learning in the public schools to play orchestral instruments would be the cultivation of playing by small groups such as are to be appealed to in this new series. The Carl Fischer catalog provides for a large number of compositions and arrangements for almost every conceivable kind of combination of instruments.

**Music Developments in Los Angeles.**—More than 350 music organizations have been developed by the Playground and Recreation Department of Los Angeles. Mr. Glenn Tindall,

Supervisor of Music of the Department, has been appointed manager of Hollywood Bowl.

**Happenings in Fresno, California.**—Raymond Quigley, Superintendent of Recreation in Fresno, reports about 2,500 entries in the annual tennis tournament conducted by the Playground and Recreation Department. Over 70,000 people attended the last seventeen games in the finals of the Twilight Baseball League.

**Drama Service at the University of South Carolina.**—The University of South Carolina has announced its plan for the development and promotion of dramatic activities at the University and throughout the state through the organization of a play producing group to be known as the Palmetto Players of the University of South Carolina. Professor William Dean has been secured to direct the work of the players whose activities will be under the supervision of the Department of English.

The new play making and play producing group will be comparable to the dramatic groups established at the University of North Carolina and the University of Virginia, but will be unique in the emphasis it will place on the utilization and preservation of historical and literary material of distinct interest. Membership will be open to all students, faculty members and officers of the university. Courses will be offered in dramatic art and play production for the benefit of students who wish to become directors, producers or dramatic coaches in organizations of various kinds. Included in the activities are the services of the Bureau of Community Drama available to all schools and colleges throughout the state and the program of the library in the loan, free of charge, of books on drama and lists of plays.

**At Pasadena, California.**—The Pasadena Bowl which was lighted during the past year at a cost of \$13,000 is proving unusually popular for night football, pageants and festivals. Over 100 groups used the bowl during the year.

**Activities in Centralia, Illinois.**—The Centralia, Illinois, Board of Recreation has a budget of only \$4,250 a year. With this limited sum, by co-operation with other organizations, the Department last year sponsored a Lions state convention parade, an American Legion parade and Halloween and Labor Day parades. It conducted

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six playgrounds with an attendance of 15,000 and maintained the community beach with an attendance of approximately 10,000 for the summer. The Department also organized small groups and teams of various kinds and worked with civic clubs, schools and with patriotic and fraternal organizations in organizing special seasonal programs. In addition, the Department has fostered twilight leagues with eight teams.

**Tap Dancing in Detroit.**—The Department of Recreation of Detroit has received so many requests from business girls for instruction in tap dancing that it was decided to organize a class. Notices were inserted in the local papers, and 202 girls came out for the first lesson. Registrations have been coming in daily and four classes are now under way.

**Lexington's Feast of Lanterns.**—There were about 400 lanterns entered in the Feast of Lanterns held on the Lexington, Kentucky, playgrounds last summer, and approximately 5,000 people gathered to see the event in which all of the playgrounds took part. An acre of ground of Woodland Park was roped off and electrically lighted with Japanese lanterns. A band stand was arranged for the band in the center of the roped-off area. The costumes and lanterns were made both at home and on the playgrounds and showed great ingenuity and cleverness. Awards were made for the prettiest hand-made lantern, the prettiest bought lantern, the prettiest flower, the most unique, most comical and most original lantern float and the most beautiful lantern float.

**Useful Play.**—A dandelion picking contest was one of the activities arranged June 10th to 14th by the Hibbing, Minnesota, Recreation Department. The contest was open to boys and girls in the Hibbing district under thirteen years of age, sixty of whom entered the contest in singles and teams. Only the yellow blossom and stem were picked. (It was feared the children might destroy lawns in digging up plants.) The children were warned not to go in private grounds to pick unless they secured the permission of the owner. The dandelions were packed in sacks and taken to the village market to be weighed and checked at the close of the contest. A truck was on hand to carry the blossoms away for immediate disposal. Two groups of prizes were awarded—for individuals picking the largest number and for teams picking the greatest number.

**Roller Skating in Philadelphia.**—The Philadelphia Bureau of Recreation has secured permission from the Highway Department and the Police Bureau to close a number of streets for roller skating. Some of the streets are used every evening from seven to nine-thirty, while others are used in the afternoon. At all of these street centers leaders from the Bureau are on hand to conduct contests in roller skating. The music car conducted by the Philadelphia Bureau of Music visits these centers one evening each week to provide music for the skaters.

**A New Sport.**—An organization for the promotion of a new sport known as gliding has been formed under the name National Gliders Association, Inc. Its headquarters are in the Union Trust Building, Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Wolfgang Klemperer, a well known glider from Germany, is associated with this group and has brought to it the experiences of the past nine years in Germany. The president, Edward S. Evans, who is a leading executive in the automobile and aviation industry, has gathered about him a group of men, all executives in the aviation field, and has set up an active aviation staff that is spreading its work over the entire country. E. A. Pritchard, Director of Recreation in Niagara Falls, New York, writes that locally there has been organized a group of thirty-five active members among sixty-five associates who have selected a field, bought a plane and are now working on the enterprise. Mr. Pritchard believes in this new undertaking there may be a new type of activity which will prove not only fascinating but valuable in the recreation field.

**A Successful Inter-City Meet.**—River Rouge and Fordson, Michigan, last summer had an inter-city meet in which over two hundred boys from eight to eighteen years of age took part. The events consisted of playground ball, paddle tennis, horseshoe pitching, croquet, basket shooting, dart throwing, shuttle relays and checkers. There were three classes in each event—Senior, Junior and Midget—with the exception of playground ball in which there were no Midget entries. Ribbons were given to the winners of the first three places. Both cities have four supervised playgrounds and contests were conducted on each ground to determine the best players to participate in the meet. Truck and automobiles were volunteered to transport the children the fifteen miles between the two cities. The experiment was so great a success that a return meet is

planned with the extension of the invitation to one or two more nearby communities.

**Wading Pools His Hobby.**—Frank H. Reed, a public spirited citizen of Neosho, Missouri, has as his hobby wading pools. This hobby of Mr. Reed's is resulting in much joy for thousands of children, for last year he built seven of these pools in various Oklahoma cities at a cost of about \$2,000 each. For 1930 he is planning to build about twenty additional pools. Mr. Reed believes the expense and effort is more than justified because of the health and happiness which the pools bring to so many children.

**Playground Golf in California.**—The schools of a number of California cities including Los Angeles, San Diego, Pasadena and Long Beach, are promoting tin can or playground golf on their playgrounds. In addition, the Los Angeles schools are planning putting greens as a part of physical education in high schools and now have cages in operation in two or three schools.

**Belmont Plans Extension of Recreation.**—The town of Belmont, Massachusetts, is working out a broad system of recreation facilities on a ten year basis, as the result of a study made by a planning board working in conjunction with the playground committee. Under this plan, playgrounds will be so distributed that no child will be more than a three-minute walk from one of them.

When the plan was submitted to the citizens at a town meeting held in December, 1927, it met with instant approval and \$30,000 was appropriated to buy the necessary land. Some already existing playgrounds are to be improved, others are to be enlarged, while a third group is to be built on land recommended by the committee. The property is taken by right of eminent domain, requiring a two-thirds vote. With the exception of one small lot on which there were a few dissenting votes, the measure was passed unanimously. The new athletic field being constructed on the site of an old brick yard will give equal opportunities for boys and girls. There is scarcely a sport which is not planned for in the construction of the twelve and a half acre field, and in addition to the football field and running track, there will be two fields for hockey for girls and two for soccer for boys, three baseball diamonds, regulation size on which first, second and Freshmen teams may play at one time, volley ball courts and tennis courts which will be flooded for skating.

**A Dance and Lantern Carnival.**—The outstanding event of the playground season at Dubuque, Iowa, was a dance and lantern carnival staged at the athletic field at the Senior High School. About 500 children took part in the parade and folk dances, each playground presenting folk dances and providing a lantern group in the parade. Two thousand children attended the playground picnic at Eagle Point Park where the Junior Band gave a splendid concert.



IN THE FRANK H. REED PARK, TULSA, OKLAHOMA

**State Parks and Recreation.**—During the season which closed October 1, 1929, the fifty-three state parks of Michigan open to the public in 1929 were visited by 7,454,741 people, an increase of 39% over the number of visitors in 1928. In this period 138,308 men, women and children camped at the state parks—an increase of 8.5% over last year. They built 41,181 camps.

**A City Honors an Old Friend.**—Muskegon Michigan, has erected a memorial to Charles H. Hackley, a millionaire lumberman who gave his fortune to the rebuilding of his home city. The memorial dedicated recently, is located at the Central Camps, overlooking the Hackley Manual Training School, the Hackley gymnasium and the athletic field, all gifts to the school system by Mr. Hackley, who in addition gave a second school, a library, an art gallery, a park and a hospital, providing endowments for all. The memorial, designed by Larado Taft, was made possible by the contributions of school children and \$60,000 raised by public subscription.

**Our New Playground.\***—Washington School has a new playground. It is just across the street from the school. The men are putting up new things every day. We now have traveling rings, a jungle gym, a slide, bars, a sand house, two hand ball courts and an indoor diamond. Every day we look to see what else is there. The playground is going to have a high fence around it when it is done. There are going to be lights so we can play at night. We are very proud of our new playground. Miss McAuliff is in charge of our playground. She teaches us games and takes care of us. Our playground is a safe place to play.—Levon McCrea, 4-B.

**Philadelphia's Municipal Music Bureau Reports.**—The new Municipal Bureau of Music, established in Philadelphia early in the year, in the first summer of its existence conducted a number of interesting activities. A junior music festival at Funfield Playground, a conclave of junior bands held on the steps of the Art Museum and the arrangement of band concerts during the summer were among the first of the Bureau's achievements. Instruction in organizing toy symphonies was given playground leaders at twelve centers and a mass demonstration was presented in August.

\*Excerpt from *The Cherry Tree*, published by the children of Washington School, San Diego, California.

The municipal music car was one of the Bureau's activities of which it is most proud. The car was equipped with a microphone, a screen, and stereopticon and moving picture combined, making possible community singing and occasional films. This car traveled from district to district during the summer. The roping off of the streets for dancing added to the enjoyment. Members of women's organizations served as chaperons at the dances and refreshments were sometimes sold to raise money for local philanthropies. In addition afternoon programs were given at various playgrounds. Up to September 29th, 600,000 people had been entertained by the music car.

**Beginning Young.**—The New York public schools have set aside one week each year in the curriculum of their civics courses for the study of city and regional planning. Because of the completion of the New York Regional Plan, special emphasis is to be given to that subject this fall.

**A Chance to Get Acquainted.**—At the annual baseball banquet of the City League held recently in Pontiac, the manager of the General Motors Truck Team made the following statement: "Out of the sixteen players on our roster only one has lived in Pontiac more than two years. Most of these men were transferred from Chicago or Moline and came as strangers to Pontiac. Within this short space of time, by playing in the City League, we have made friends of some seventy-five other young men. This has also made us feel a part of your city and we are willing to accept our responsibilities as citizens."

The Pontiac Recreation Department recently held a meeting to organize a band among the young men, particularly those with high school band experience who had graduated within the past three or four years. Nineteen young men attended the first meeting of whom only three had lived in Pontiac over three years. The majority of the men had been in the city only about a year and the band meant a place for them to get acquainted.

**More Vacations for Working Men.**—Both summer and winter vacations for the masses of the workers were predicted by Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant, in an address to Dartmouth College students on December 22nd. "The five hour day and the five day week are also in the offing,"

Mr. Filene said. "Mass production demands it and cannot go on unless the masses are not only able to buy what they want but are also encouraged to want more and more."

**New York State Acquires New Parks.—**

Through the Taconic State Park Commission and the public spirited action of Dr. McR. Livingston of New York City and John Bross Lloyd of Kinderhook, New York state has acquired about 500 acres in Galatin, Columbia County. The tract includes 255 acres of water known as Lake Charlotte. The lake, which is considered one of the most beautiful water areas in the state, has an average depth of about twelve feet. About 300 acres of heavily wooded land around the lake have also been obtained.

**About Boys Clubs.—**A campaign is under way to raise \$100,000 for the erection of a building in North Philadelphia to house the work of the Colored Boys Club. It will be known as the "Susan Parrish Wharton Memorial," so named in honor of the late Miss Wharton, who devoted twenty-five years of her life to the advancement of Negroes. The building plans call for a gymnasium, natatorium, club rooms and game rooms. Two buildings have been purchased and will be remodeled for the use of the Savannah Boys' Club.

**Atlantic City's New Auditorium.—**The many leaders and workers in the recreation movement who have been to Atlantic City to attend meetings of the Recreation Congress will be interested to learn that the new municipal auditorium completed recently has the following wording carved on the face of the building:

"A permanent monument conceived as a tribute to the ideals of Atlantic City, built by its citizens and dedicated to recreation, social progress, and industrial achievements."

On either side of this wording appears the following:

Festivities	Education
Music	Science
Pageantry	Conventions
Drama	Art
Athletics	Industry

In addition to its purpose to serve as a meeting place for conventions, the new auditorium is to be a center for play, recreation, and leisure time activities.

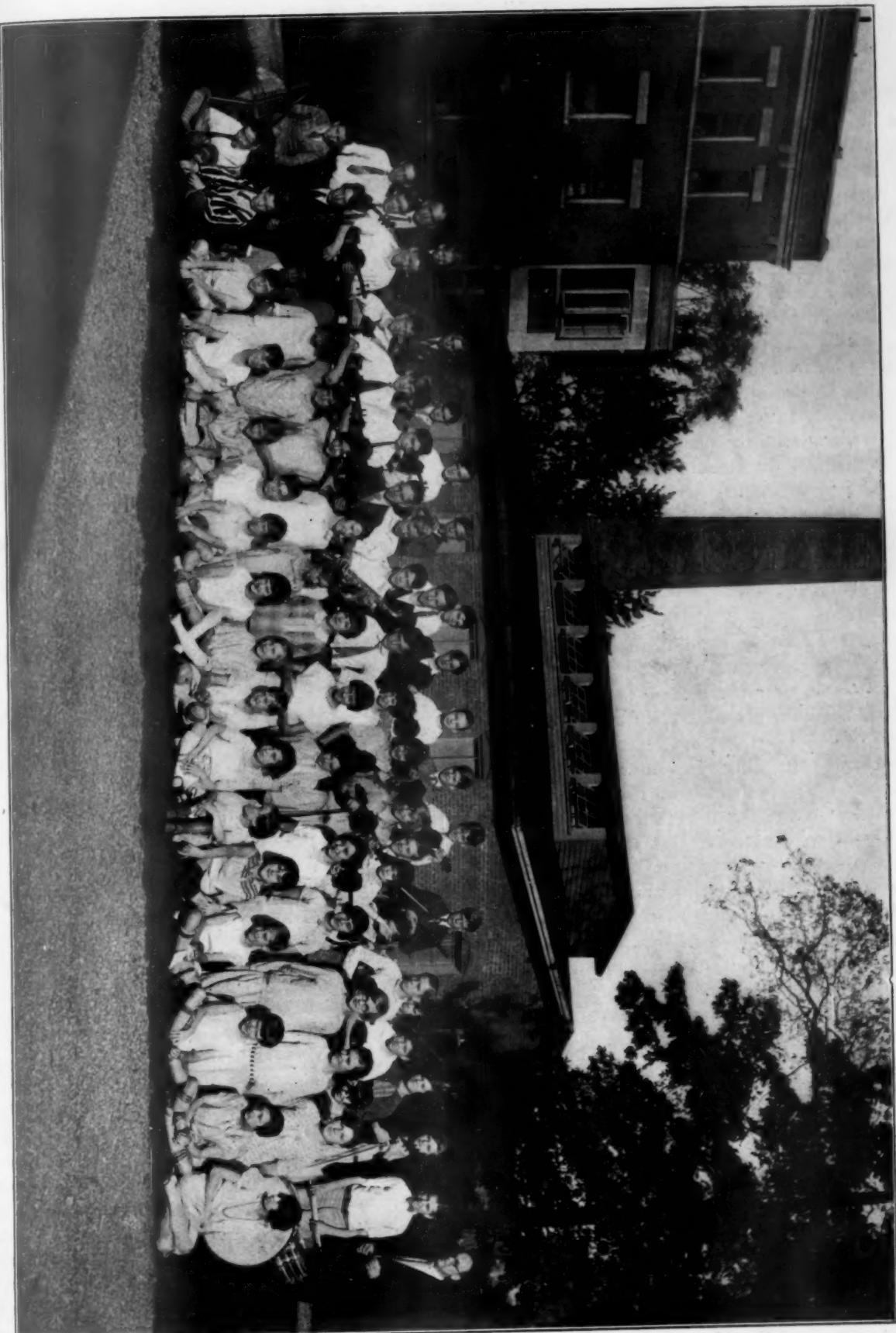
**A Five Year Dream Come True.—**Claude Allen, Superintendent of Recreation at Elizabeth, New Jersey, has realized a five year dream in the completion of a Bintz swimming pool, ninety feet by 150 feet, which has been constructed at Recreation Pier, a plot of ground about 200 feet square. The pool is in a highly populated district, the residents of which presented a petition for the pool signed with 1,400 names. This petition caused final action in the construction of the pool. So great has been its popularity that there is considerable agitation for another pool in a different section of the city.

**Hibbing's First Annual Municipal Athletic Banquet and Get-Together.—**On November 26th, Hibbing, Minnesota, under the auspices of the Recreation Department, held its first annual municipal athletic banquet. Over 150 members of teams and about 400 citizens came together at Memorial Building. Governor Theodore Christianson gave the main address of the evening, pointing out the importance of the recreation problem because of the increasing amount of leisure time. There was a presentation of the athletic activities of the Recreation Department showing that an average of 281 groups have participated in the athletic program each of the past four years. In addition to the speaking and the musical numbers on the program, there was a presentation of summer playground medals to 153 members of teams.

**Recreation for the Negro Citizens of Baltimore.—**The Board of Estimate of the city of Baltimore, Maryland, on November 14th passed a supplementary budget of \$10,200 for the extension of the colored work in the city of Baltimore. This provides for a director, who will be attached to the staff of the Playground League of Baltimore, and supervisors of music, dramatics and play activities.

**A Children's Orchestra From a Small City Wins Favor.—**Middletown, Connecticut, has an orchestra made up of fifty-two children from the playgrounds whose average age is fourteen years. In competition with a number of high school orchestras the Middletown group won first prize in the Eastern States Exposition at Springfield, Massachusetts, in September, 1929, when they played three classical numbers. Eight nationalities are represented in the orchestra. There is a ninety-four percent attendance at weekly rehearsals.

ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS FROM THE PLAYGROUNDS OF MIDDLETOWN, CONN.



sals; members absent three times are dropped. The orchestra has played at hospitals, at the Children's Home and at most of the schools.

**Worcester Builds Terraced Playground.**—A terraced playground has been added to the parks and playground system of Worcester, Massachusetts, by the establishment of a combined athletic field and a playground. The playground, one of the longest in the city, has a frontage of 640 feet with a depth of more than 150 feet. A baseball diamond has been marked out and in the fall a football gridiron will be constructed. In addition it is planned to build tennis courts. The natural slope to the terrace will give spectators every opportunity to see games at close range without interfering with the players. A concrete backstop with a high wire-mesh fence has been erected. In the rear of the first terrace the ground has been levelled and a second terrace which almost surrounds the grounds, serves as a natural amphitheatre. When the playground is completed, it is believed it will be suitable for outdoor pageants and plays.

There are eleven and a half acres of land available for playground purposes. The fact that it is located near the bathing beach at Coes Lake will make the ground doubly attractive.

**Boat Building in Louisville.**—So many boats were constructed on the playgrounds conducted by the Board of Park Commissioners of Louisville, Kentucky, that the past season has been known as "boat year." At the end of the season a city-wide regatta was held, when the most attractive and original models made by the children were exhibited. A varied array of crafts was to be seen. There were ocean vessels with tall smokestacks, Ohio river stern wheelers, motor boats, flat racing boats with elastic band engines, row boats, sail boats, canoes and even pattern boats and replicas of Viking vessels. The father of boats was not forgotten and there in all of its glory was a big Noah's Ark, stuffed to the brim with animals of all kinds, all made with a tiny hand saw, a few sticks of wood and daubs of paint.

**Coming to the Rescue.**—Last July because of an epidemic of infantile paralysis it became necessary to close the playgrounds in Roanoke, Virginia. The Director of Recreation, K. Mark Cowen, conceived the idea of conducting a bulletin

service for the children in their homes. Suggestions were thereupon sent out for games and activities involving one or two children. Handcraft suggestions followed. This service became so popular that it has been decided to make it permanent for shut-ins and convalescents.

**Jacksonville Has New Superintendent.**—On September 1st, N. L. Mallison assumed the duties of Superintendent of Recreation in Jacksonville, Florida, where he succeeds W. J. Sandford, Jr. Mr. Mallison goes to Jacksonville from Knoxville, Tennessee, where for two and one-half years he acted as Superintendent of Recreation.

**Boonton, New Jersey, Is Given a Park.**—Boonton, New Jersey, has received a fifteen-acre park deeded to it by the J. Couper Lord estate. The park was planned and laid out by Frederick Law Olmstead about 1870 as a part of the housing scheme which Mr. Lord had undertaken as an extension of his Iron Works development. All that is required to put the park in shape is clearing away underbrush and weeds.

**Winter Sports in the Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park.**—The winter sports program in the Bear Mountain State Park attracted so many people that during the 1928-1929 season from December to March, more than a million individuals enjoyed the preserve, and competitive events such as skating and skiing tournaments attracted crowds of ten and fifteen thousand people. Four important winter sports events were set for Sundays in January and February of 1930. These included the inter-state Outdoor Speed Skating Championship, Inter-State Ski Jumping Tournament, the Palisades Ski Jumping Tournament and the Bear Mountain Skating Handicap. Ice hockey provided exciting competitive events on the large covered rink at Bear Mountain with its surface of 100' x 200'. Tobogganing was a lively feature of the winter enjoyment. Experience in this sport has led to the improvement of the slides in the interest of safety by which timber and canvas sides have been abandoned, the slides being made with earth banks. The hundreds of miles of marked trails and old wood roads offer delightful paths for winter rambles amid the snow-covered trees and the tracks of wild animals, which are most interesting to study on fresh fallen snow.

# Leisure and Contentment\*

By

MRS. THOMAS A. EDISON

Last Labor Day an errand took me a short distance from my home in West Orange, New Jersey. On the way I saw two contrasting pictures which brought home to me anew the importance of the work that this group is doing for public recreation. The first picture was the highway, choked with automobiles which crawled along in a double line, literally struggling for every inch they gained. A procession of cars actually five miles long was held up for nearly five hours on one of our New Jersey highways. Every car bulged with people out in search of holiday pleasure. Yet how few of those families seemed to be enjoying themselves! The youngsters—sometimes four or five of them were crowded into one small car—looked hot and restless and bored. And the grownups did not look any more contented. Most of that endless parade were traveling because they did not know what else to do with their holiday. They get into a car and keep going—it doesn't matter how nor where. That seems to be the typical American holiday philosophy.

The other, and more encouraging picture, I saw in passing one of the parks of the Essex County park system. In this beautiful, grassy expanse families were playing together. Some were eating picnic lunches. The older people were enjoying the grateful shade of the trees. Games of different kinds were in swing among the younger people. It was refreshing to see the children running about on the green, laughing and free, and close to the joys of Nature which should be the heritage of every child. It absolutely expressed the need of parks in every community.

I reflected how many American families, after all, are failing to find real play in their leisure hours. A curious thing about modern life is the way so many of us take our recreation in doses, as though it should be a sort of medicine instead of a part of daily life, something as necessary to existence as food. We go on for days, and some-

times for weeks, without considering play, then comes a holiday or a week-end and we play with a vengeance. And so after a holiday many men and women return to their work more tired than they were before. Children are over-stimulated by the pace which grownups force them to follow in their own thoughtless pursuit of amusement.

A great need in modern life is for relaxation. We are living too fast. Today we receive more impressions, more stimulation, in a week than our grandfathers did in a year. Yet our play, in many cases, serves only to tighten further the tension on those tired nerves. True recreation cannot be shunted outside of everyday life. Like a bright thread, it must be woven through the warp of our whole existence. It colors all of the home and the neighborhood. The best recreation is a change of occupation. There can be the play spirit in work—and the work spirit in play. Every one of us needs for his spare time a hobby—something into which he can put the enthusiasm and pride in achievement that he should take in accomplishing his real work.

## Contentment Dependent on the Wise Use of Leisure

I have chosen for my topic "Leisure and Contentment" because I believe contentment depends to a large degree on how we use our leisure. By contentment I do not mean inactivity. No matter how old a person is, he attains happiness by exercising his faculties. I mean the sense of serene well-being, of satisfaction and self-expression that can be achieved only when we have found our fulfillment in play as well as work. Activity of the mind and body is vital to contentment. A certain amount of wholesome adventure is necessary, especially for children.

Outdoor life and the great healing power of Nature seems to contribute most indispensably to contentment. People who lack close contact with them cannot be really happy; these things are too fundamental. I often think of the way Joseph

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, October 15, at Louisville, Kentucky.

Lee has expressed this: "Our minds and bodies are homesick in this modern world."

The public recreation movement has a great mission in restoring to America the parks and playgrounds, forests and streams and other open spaces that they require for health and happiness. Important, too, is the education of the people in the use of these areas. To get the maximum of enjoyment from them the town and city dweller needs a liberal education in nature study. It is not enough to give him the outdoors—his eyes must be opened to its wonders; to the infinite resources it offers for lifelong enjoyment. Here trained leadership is very essential.

Please do not think I condemn the automobile as a facility for recreation; far from it. The automobile is doing much to bring families into closer contact with the outdoors. It is the use of the automobile for pleasure merely because it is a vehicle that I do deplore. Teach our children—and grownups as well—to love the things of nature, to study them with the eagerness of the scientist or the artist, and the automobile trip becomes an Open Sesame to many real delights. The children will take an interest in trees and stones and flowers they see along the way. Instead of whining to stop at every roadside stand for a "hot wienie" or an ice-cream cone, they will want to stop to watch the habits of a bird, squirrel and other animal life, or to see the sunset fading over the hill.

### Gardening Important

In all our playgrounds, I believe that we should have garden work for the children. There is no better way to teach a child the miracle of growth and of the soil than to let him keep a garden, no matter how small it is, which also brings into their life the animal kingdom. Adults, too, are finding the finest sort of recreation in gardening, if the work I have observed at West Orange and at Fort Myers, Florida, is typical. Organized by districts with a chairman for each group, the home gardening idea has spread like wildfire in these cities. In Orange, New Jersey, the inside of the homes, as well as the grounds, have been made more attractive and livable because of the interest aroused by a garden. In the case of large families, the garden led first to the sprucing up of the whole yard. Broken down arbors were repaired and rubbish was cleared out. The mother learned how to can the products grown,

and from this grew an interest in more balanced meals and better homemaking in general.

Gardening is a recreation—yet it promotes a joy in work and pride in the fruits of labor that children will carry over into the tasks of their adult life. This is true of other activities at playgrounds and recreation centers, particularly of the handicraft work which has revealed such astonishing skill and ingenuity among the youngsters throughout the country. One of the most valuable assets we can give to children is this enthusiasm for worthy achievement, this joy in accomplishment. Boys and girls especially need that philosophy today, when we are apt to value returns in money above returns in service and self-expression.

Even the humblest task is enjoyable when the doer is interested in everything that bears upon his task. The girl who learns how to dye inexpensive materials for playground dramatics; how to grow and arrange flowers and to weave baskets; how to sew and to recognize textiles and to combine colors restfully, is fortunate. When she reaches the homemaking age she will have hobbies and interests which never can be taken away from her.

### Recreation Must Serve the Home

On a par with gardening and nature study, I would place music as a recreation which gives abiding satisfaction. Music is the very soul of recreation in the home. I think that there is a real problem in making the activities of the playground and school and community center best serve the interests of the home. Children who learn to play instruments under community auspices should be encouraged to bring home that knowledge and help to form a family orchestra. When members of a family are singing or playing instruments together they are finding the rarest sort of comradeship. It is the act of producing something in common, and not so much the quality of the performance that is valuable. *Doing* means more than merely *listening*. Yet the radio and mechanical musical instruments do have a contribution to make to home recreation, if the family listens to them with the idea of knowing what is being played, and of building up for themselves a mutual interest in music appreciation.

The modern American home has been accused of being only a "service station." In planning

for community play we must not lose sight of the fact that the home is the natural center for recreation. The future of the home, indeed of the nation, depends on keeping alive that spirit of sympathetic fellowship in play between parents and children. It is encouraging to note how many community recreation systems have carried through Home Play Weeks and campaigns for backyard playgrounds. Then the community recreation leader, by working with children, has an excellent opportunity to bring more play into the home. Teach the children games and crafts which they may take home with them. There is no surer way to capture adult interest than through the child.

If the playground is to help most effectively in promoting home play, it must itself become more a part of neighborhood life than is now generally true. It seems to me that we not only need more playgrounds, but we need them better distributed and more intimate. Make the grounds smaller, if necessary, but have one in every neighborhood and have it beautiful. Every recreation area should be as much a restful garden spot as it is possible to make it and still meet the demands of active play. Very sane and foresighted is the present movement among real estate developers to set aside play spaces when they subdivide new property. Because of this wise type of planning even city districts in the future may have the country at their very door.

The institutes to train recreation leaders for rural communities are a very significant part of the recent work of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. On the farm, it would seem, the people have the best opportunity to find happiness and content in living. Yet the alarming exodus of young people from the country to the city expresses a wide dissatisfaction in rural life. Something is lacking. And that something in many cases is a normal social life. So these institutes, which are helping representative farm folks to take back recreational knowledge to their home communities, will go a long way toward bringing gaiety and fun and fresh vitality into the country, the fountain-head of our national life and the dwelling place of more than half our population.

Leadership is a fitting theme for this conference, for on the right kind of direction depends the future of the work we have to accomplish. Leaders of initiative, of organizing ability, with vision and a love and understanding of people,

are needed. I would like to lay great stress upon the idea of the good director of recreation keeping in the background, wielding an unconscious influence over the group and thus encouraging the child's own initiative. I realize that our play leaders must deal with people in the mass, yet I wish it were possible for them to individualize more. Every child and every grownup, too, has his personal problems in recreation.

### Hobbies Make for Happiness

I can say that my interest in community recreation began in my childhood, because my father was one of the pioneers in helping America to a wise use of leisure time. He was the co-founder of Chautauqua. His ideal of combining cultural recreation with the physical is being realized more and more today in city recreation programs where music and drama and the arts are developed as fully as sports and athletics. My father often said that every life should hold one important interest, one cause which a person knows to be worthy of the best effort he may be able to give it. More than fifteen years ago, when I became a member of the Board of Directors of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, I found that interest for myself. Mr. Edison's life has been absorbed with his scientific investigations. He has been very happy to see me have play and recreation as my major interest. And through the years it has been a tremendous satisfaction to me to share in a movement that is so vital, and to watch its steady growth. Best of all has been the privilege of association with a group of people so enthusiastic and so sincerely devoted to their work.

We are facing a vast challenge, but I believe it can be and will be met. I like to look ahead to the time when every American city and town and country district will have opportunities for more and better play, will enjoy leisure time pursuits that build up the body and minister to the mind and spirit. One of the most important things this group can do is to show our young people that the best things of life are free; that they may be had without paying a cent. Bring our children closer to the simple and fundamental; help them to discover hobbies that they may keep all their lives; train their hands and hearts to the joy of creating perfect things; hold up to them ideals of fine sportsmanship, and we will have a better nation tomorrow.



A MOTHERS' CLUB AT A MILWAUKEE SOCIAL CENTER

# Drift or Mastery?

By

MRS. EUGENE MEYER,

*Chairman, Westchester County Recreation Commission*

When Mr. Rivers very kindly asked me to speak, I could not immediately suggest a title for the different kinds of things I wished to discuss, but if I may be permitted to give my title now I should like to put it in the form of a question and call it 'Drift or Mastery'? What, after all, is the recreation movement? It is an attempt to look ahead, to become intelligent about living, to guide to some extent this human destiny of ours instead of accepting the future blindly and uncritically.

In my opinion, the most hopeful thing about the modern mentality, and our President's is one of the best examples, is its determination to influence future events instead of accepting catastrophe as something inevitable. The President's message to our recreation congress shows the same humanitarian interest, the same kind of forward looking and courageous thinking as his meeting last week with Mr. MacDonald in order to assure peace. He foresees with clarity and with comprehension the problems brought about by changing economic and social conditions. He believes that something can and should be done about them. He makes a strong plea, in this as in many other fields of endeavor, to abandon drift in favor of mastery. Surely such belief in the necessity of what we are doing, such sympathy for our efforts should put heart into all of us and send us back to work with a new determination and a new zeal.

To be sure, in a new field of endeavor such as ours it is often difficult to determine when we are merely drifting and when we have established something akin to mastery. What I am going to do is to discuss our Westchester County program and show you how we have tried consciously to think out our problems in a broad theoretical way and how, though our work springs from particular and local needs, we have tried to fill those needs in such a way that our plan of procedure might always contain at least a minimum of universal applicability and therefore of general value.

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Louisville, Kentucky, October 15, 1929.

## The Westchester County Program

Some of you may not know that recreational activity in Westchester County, New York, as in so many other sections of our country, is due primarily to the efforts of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, for it was they who convinced our great county leader, William L. Ward, that recreation is a legitimate function of the government. Since the beginning of the work seven years ago, we have been fortunate not only in the continued guidance of Mr. Ward's experienced statesmanship but also in the unfaltering support of our County Board of Supervisors. Not only has this condition of constant sympathetic cooperation with our political environment been of the greatest assistance, but the sound and rapid progress which recreation has made in our County would have been utterly impossible without it. I cannot put too much emphasis upon the necessity for all recreation commissions and all recreation workers to become politically minded, and to realize that as government workers they are not a unit by themselves but a part of the highly complicated structure which they must understand if they are to function successfully in it. In fact, for the boards or commissioners of any recreation movement, I should go further and say that they ought, if possible, to have actual political experience. Only in that way can they move harmoniously and without harmful errors among political leaders, both central and local, among boards of supervisors, town boards, budget committees and the numerous other authorities by whose favor and understanding all official recreation movements come into being and continue to exist.

Because our political organization in Westchester County has given us such an unqualified allegiance, you may be sure that the Recreation Commission has worked doubly hard not to make any mistakes and not to waste any of the funds which have been so liberally supplied. Perhaps some of our conscientiousness is also due to the fact that we are a commission of women, and in

any field of endeavor men seem to expect more of women than they do of themselves.

### A Camp for Mothers

Let us now consider for a few minutes whether the working program of the Westchester County Recreation Commission has any suggestions to offer you. I shall begin at the end of the story and tell you about our latest experiment, which I have good reason to believe unique, namely, a camp for mothers with small children. We had already been running camps for older boys and girls during four summers. The idea of a mothers' camp had been in our minds for several years but we were always afraid to begin because the management and organization of a camp composed largely of children under the usual camping age presented numerous obvious difficulties. One morning I read a story in *The New York Times* which told of several such camps that had been started by women's clubs. I immediately showed the article to Mrs. Marsh, our Director of Recreation, and told her with our usual confidence that if other people could run a mothers' camp we could, too.

We began at once and the Park Commission, with whom we are in constant cooperation, arranged for our purposes the beautiful old Teller Mansion which stands on a lovely knoll overlooking the Hudson River. When we were well under way with our preparations, I asked Mrs. Marsh to visit the other camps mentioned in the article to see what she could learn about running them. In a few days Mrs. Marsh reported to me none of the other camps existed, except in the *Times'* article! But there we were, well launched and obliged to plunge in. Mrs. Marsh and I were very clever about the situation. She became ill and I went to Europe and what was one of our most trying, though unquestionably one of our most interesting problems, was left to two fellow commissioners, Miss Ruth Taylor and Mrs. Noel Macy, to solve. If you can imagine what it was like to persuade forty tired women of very different background and nationality, most of whom had never been away from home, and some forty or fifty infants, many of whom could not feed themselves, to live under one roof in orderly fashion, you can visualize the tact and patience which were required in the workers and organizers! During the first week, for example, nobody averaged more than three

hours' sleep on account of the Yankovitch children, all of whom were accustomed to sleeping with Papa and Mamma.

It is a noteworthy but perfectly natural fact that these hard working mothers, who had never had a day of freedom, who had never eaten a meal which they had not themselves prepared, had no idea what to do with spare time. At first they wanted to do absolutely nothing. They were content just to sit and rock musingly back and forth. But soon that palled and we had an opportunity to observe the utter helplessness of those who are accustomed to hard labor when they must adjust themselves to hours of complete leisure. They want to do something entirely new but they have neither the incentive nor the ability which would enable them to seek for themselves new and unknown experiences. That situation is after all typical of thousands upon thousands of other workers, male and female, who find themselves for the first time in history similarly placed. Nor is it possible simply to put at the disposal of such people a variety of new outlets and say to them, "Choose." They are not capable of choosing.

The recreation movement must not be merely an instrument which organizes athletics, handcrafts and other activities. It must be composed of human beings with understanding, with tact and with sympathy sufficient to win the confidence of working men and women so that they can be induced, or even coaxed ever so gently, into the formation of new desires, new abilities, new tastes.

### The Public Recreation Movement Is Not Paternalistic

Permit me to take up at this point the fear which is still so often expressed, that public recreation is paternalistic and therefore contrary to our theory of government—in other words, that it is harmful to individual development if we try to help people decide how they shall spend their leisure because it robs them of freedom of decision. Look back for a moment into your own lives and think what decided your choice in the matter of career, of diversions, or even of friends. Wasn't it largely chance, the opportunities which presented themselves, the teacher who happened to make a great impression, the accident always of what happened to be near at hand and what sort of appeal it made? To this day I regret play-

ing a poor game of tennis, because as I grew up I happened never to have had a prolonged opportunity to play it.

The problem of finding the right sort of outlet is even more difficult for this high-speed generation than it was for us. If we try to catch them on the wing with healthful and formative activities, we are no more paternalistic than is the public school system. We are giving the people something which they have a right to demand of an enlightened democracy. If we build hospitals and jails for the weak and the wicked, why in common sense shouldn't we do something for the healthy and the honest citizen? If so much social effort is to be spent on strengthening the weak, surely it is but reasonable to spend some effort to make the strong even stronger. So far democracy has shown a tendency to concentrate its efforts on behalf of the handicapped, whether mentally, morally or physically, while its positive assets, the strong and the healthy, have been left to shift for themselves. Surely something should be done for the average citizen, if only from the economic motive that prevention is worth a pound of cure and that it is cheaper to keep a healthy, law-abiding man in that condition than to cure the weaknesses of body and of character.

There is no paternalism, no sentimentality in the recreation program. The officials of Westchester County are convinced, and are acting upon the conviction, that democracy must fail if in addition to alleviating mass suffering it does not also give attention to the happiness of the individual and thereby open the way to the joy and to the creative vigor of the nation.

#### Follow-up Important

And now to complete our discussion of the mothers' camp. It had its second season this year, and, of all the things which our Commission has attempted, nothing has given us greater satisfaction. The mothers were sent, for the most part, by the Department of Child Welfare and the Charity Organization Societies, but there were also several private families who could not afford a more expensive vacation. Primarily, these mothers enjoy themselves with us. They have a good time. Not only do they find at the camp opportunity for rest, for diversions of all sorts, such as swimming, moonlight picnics on the beach and lessons in handicraft, but they absorb from

the trained workers who handle their children an entirely new conception of child care, of proper feeding, clothing and discipline. For many of them life was completely transformed and they returned to their homes with a renewed enjoyment of their children and with much better preparation to cope with their problems because they had been inspired by an entirely new conception of daily living.

Nor do we lose track, either, of the mothers or of the boys and girls in our camps for older children. Our follow-up program through other County agencies is beginning to be worked out more carefully this year. There is not much point in merely tossing people into camp life for two weeks or a month and expecting it to do them any good. In many cases it is far better to leave people at home, especially any that border on being problem cases, unless your camp supervision consists of an adequate staff of efficient, experienced people under an able director. Even under such conditions of careful individual supervision much of your result will be lost unless the various County social agencies permit of continued observation that will fasten the new habits and the new knowledge. There is no test for the value of camp life except in the improved health and behavior of your campers during the following winter, nor can you have the satisfaction you should find in your work unless you can observe the effects of your efforts.

#### A Plea for the Scientific Attitude

I wish to make a plea to all recreation workers for two connected things—a more scientific attitude toward our work and a constantly closer co-operation with the other social agencies in our communities. We must begin to establish in the recreation field standards and methods just as high as those which obtain in other fields of social welfare, and we must constantly check up our work by correlating it with the work of other agencies. On our commission we are especially fortunate in having as a member Miss Ruth Taylor, Deputy Commissioner of Public Welfare, who has for years been associated with the welfare work of Westchester County. Miss Taylor and Mrs. Marsh have been instrumental in helping us to work out several valuable methods of cooperation, of which I shall mention one as an illustration of which can be done. In the fall our handicraft program consists largely of mend-

ing broken toys which are sent to us all year round. We distribute the toys among the local workshops. The boy and girl scouts acquire great skill in mending them, and the welfare societies distribute them at Christmas time among all of Westchester County's dependent children, those in private homes, in hospitals and other public County institutions. No County ward is forgotten and an effort is made to give each child what he has particularly longed for. The presents are in many cases much more costly than it would be practical to purchase, and yet the entire thing involves no outlay of money except for a little paint and a few tools.

In addition to emphasizing the important results that can be achieved through cooperation with other agencies, I should like to make clear to you what I mean by striving for a scientific attitude toward our problems. I think the time has come when we must begin to aim at better results by refusing to employ any but the most carefully trained people. In many communities the recreation field is considered a sort of dumping ground for political proteges that are entirely useless in any other organization. This condition cannot continue to exist if you insist upon a standard of efficiency in yourself and in your employees that will win the respect of your public. In Westchester nobody even suggests appointees for our vacancies, because we have let it be known that we are very exacting people to work for and that only those who know their business can survive.

In fact, we in Westchester are so determined to be severe, even with ourselves, that we are about to install an experienced research worker to check up our own results and find out whether we are doing the right kind of recreation and doing it in the right way. This person, after a year's study, should be able to tell us approximately what effect our camps are having on the mothers and the children; whether our playgrounds are well run and whether they are in the right places; just whether our choral societies and music festivals are worth while and why; where new dramatic clubs should be started; and whether in general the distribution and execution of our work is good or bad. All these facts can be accurately obtained, and after we get them we shall publish them for the use of all recreation groups, since such a careful survey is bound to have a certain amount of general information and value.

#### And Always Trained Leadership

If only we demand carefully trained workers in the recreation field and then insist upon a careful follow-up and check-up of our results, we are bound to elevate the whole atmosphere of the recreation movement in a short period of time. Moreover, the various recreation units with constantly increasing budgets cannot go on in the present often haphazard fashion without being challenged from time to time by the taxpayers as to their right to exist as a government function, and when that challenge comes it must be met with facts and figures, or we cannot and do not deserve to survive.

Special efforts should be made, however, not to publish any unfounded statements nor to make any over-statements, for those people who make easy generalizations and claims greater than can be clearly proven only harm the recreation movement more than they help it.

Please do not let me give you the impression that we think our camps or any other piece of work of ours have reached a state of perfection. We are still handicapped by lack of efficient people, particularly in the boys' camp. It is as yet much easier to find trained women in the recreation field than trained men. Moreover, our budget for the boys' camp is still insufficient because it is only by degrees that the public will become accustomed to paying adequate sums for competent recreation leadership.

Nor are we certain that the theory which we are trying to work out is sound. I offer it to you, as I said in the beginning, merely to show you the trend of our thoughts, and we welcome any criticism that may occur to you. We are feeling our way, and we fully expect that time will modify not only what we are doing but what we are thinking.

It is inherent in the recreation situation itself that we still lack not only the leadership of skilled men and women and well trained assistants, but it is even more serious that there are so few men of outstanding achievement who are free to give their best thought to an analysis of the possibilities and to the validity of recreation. The recreation movement will *never* develop as it should until it can offer to men and women alike an assured career and adequate economic reward. At present you enter this field, and especially the public field, at the risk of all stability and all continuity of effort, and I for one admireenor-

mously those of you who have had the faith and the courage to do it.

### A County Center for Music, Drama and Nature Activities

There are only one or two points in our program which I shall add, as you can get all the details from our annual report. You may be interested to know that next year our big annual music festival, now in its sixth year, should become self-sustaining, an objective for which we have struggled because we do not believe that a recreation movement is sound if it involves the least element of charity. Better far in the long run to scale down your needs to fit your capacity to pay than to struggle with deficits. People get tired of paying deficits and any popular movement which regularly incurs them is bound to peter out.

I should confess at once that the choral groups have received the greatest encouragement and the greatest financial assistance from our County authorities when they ordered the construction of a beautiful County Center at White Plains, in the very heart of the County. It contains a big hall designed primarily for the music festival, which seats 5,000 people. The stage, when extended, seats almost 2,000. This hall and stage can also be used for operatic performances, dramatics, indoor athletics of every description, County play days, and other County events, such as banquets, conventions and dances. In addition, there is a small stage and a theatre seating 500, where the County little theatre movement will hold its competitions. There will also be room for a nature museum and a meeting room for the County nature-clubs, walking-clubs and so on. The nature work is one of our newest ventures, for which we have obtained expert leadership, with the object of introducing scientifically well-founded nature study in the playgrounds, in the new lecture hall, in the camps and with public school groups. If I have not told you more about it, it is because our hopes in this direction are as yet greater than our accomplishment. To advance this and other projects, there was the greatest need for such a building if our program was to develop as it should, but you can imagine that the money was not appropriated without some criticism, and it now behooves our Commission to use the building in so satisfactory a manner that our citizens will be satisfied with

the investment, and other communities will be tempted to follow our lead.

### A Warning Against Over-Organization

And now let me warn you of one danger which I see for the Westchester recreation movement and which may exist for others as well, namely, an over-emphasis of organization in the activities, a lack of adaptability and sensitiveness to the desires of the people themselves. The working hours of the American are already over-organized. Let us not do the same thing to his leisure. The danger lurks everywhere—in playgrounds, camps, musical and dramatic organizations, nature work. Everything must be guarded against inflexible programs and inflexible administrators. No doubt you have all heard the story of the mother who asked her little girl if she had had a good time on the playground that morning, and the child replied, "No, Mother, the new supervisor was trying to instill a spirit of gaiety."

Let us always respect the freedom of expression, the individuality, the adventurousness of those with whom we deal. Without such freedom the recreation movement may easily become another tool for that terrible desire for conformity, the fear of being the least bit different from the herd, by which American life is slowly becoming dominated, if not enslaved. As one author puts it in the current *Atlantic Monthly*, "We are in danger of manufacturing a nation of billiard balls." Let us not help along the billiard ball process.

There are many temporary conditions in American life which make recreation all the more necessary but which create for it great initial difficulties. The chief of these is unquestionably the advent of prohibition. Whether we are drys or whether we are not, and just to make my argument stronger I shall state that I am in favor of prohibition, we cannot deny that with all the evils that alcohol created we have taken away one of the greatest stimulants and one of the commonest sources of recreation that mankind has ever had. Even the saloon, disastrous as it may have been in its influence, was at the same time a cheap and harmless club for many men and an outlet and a recreational resource, even though destructive for others. Ours is the incredibly great responsibility of finding enough healthful and enjoyable outlets to compensate for this deprivation which we have put upon ourselves, and this at the mo-

ment when the general leisure of all classes has only begun. The five day week is looming before us, but who knows—it may be merely the fore-runner. We must work with all our might if we are to keep ahead of this vast new development, and we must learn to think not in terms of the immediate necessity but on a scale that will be useful for years to come. The real test of our great material civilization will be the use which we make of our leisure, and yet the question is not as yet receiving the consideration that it should from our governments, our public men, our educational leaders or the press. Fortunately, we have in Herbert Hoover a President whose active mind is fully aware of the importance of the problem, and I am quite sure we shall get from him preeminently that large vision and clarity of thought of which we are so deeply in need.

So far we must thank the industrialists of America for some of the most enlightened leadership which recreation has yet developed. Probably the private recreation programs of industry would bulk much larger at present than the total work being done by municipalities. But I am bitterly opposed to the theory that the American workingman should have leisure because it increases his material wants. If the workingman is going to use his leisure merely to increase his material desires, he might better not have it. He must want not things but ideas. He must not only improve the kind of automobile he has but the kind of tastes and interests which occupy his mind. He must learn that leisure is not merely a pleasure but a responsibility, for it is frequently just as enervating and destructive as it can be ennobling. Let us not make something light of the recreation movement. Don't, I beg of you, make of it merely a sort of "glad" movement. It must have its gravity, its profundity. It must bring great new gifts, new color to the life of our nation, new music, a new theatre and a conception of life so free, so vast, so productive of great things that the world will shout its acclaim and admit that we have earned our freedom.

In other words, we must recognize that we are concerned not only with bodies but with the mind, the heart and the soul. Only if we are conscious of our great responsibility can we bring to it the high purpose and the inner conviction which will lead us in the right direction. We have embarked upon a new untrdden, and often mysterious, path. We cannot always be sure that the

next immediate step will show us all the beauties and possibilities of the road upon which we have begun to travel. Unless we are inspired from within, unless we feel a great and intuitive guidance, we shall never arrive at a fulfillment of the hopes which we have raised in our own and other breasts, and at a conquest of that El Dorado which we discern in the distance and which we must learn to deserve before it can be inherited.

People speak of the joyousness and the great productivity of the Greeks, for example, as if they were the result of an easy existence. Not at all. So cheap an optimism the Greeks would have despised, just as the superficial cheerfulness of modern Pollyannas should be condemned. The environment of the Greeks contained factors of joyousness and beauty which made it possible for them to look into the dark obscurity of nature and yet remove their gaze with light and courage shining in their eyes. There you have the symbol of our problem. Not to hope to make an earthly paradise but to create for human beings such sources of activity, of beauty and of strength that they can meet the inevitable cruelty of life with love and sympathy and without surrender.



WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, HARD TO BEAT!

# Recreation and Farming\*

By

WILLIAM BUTTERWORTH

*President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States*

Of 20,000 requests for information and suggestions on play and recreation received by the Playground and Recreation Association of America in 1928, fully one-third came from small towns and rural districts. A recent notice in a dozen farm publications of the availability of a list of non-royalty plays brought in three thousand letters requesting the list. A group of housewives, mail carriers, teachers and store-keepers of Redfield Grange, Oswego County, New York, won first place for their play, *Day by Day*, by Paul Greene, in a state contest at Cornell University. Eighty-four hundred men and women have attended recreation institutes in the open country and in agricultural schools in the last two years.

These facts have been thrown out to indicate that there is a great interest in play and recreation among American farmers. The basis for this interest is, I think, twofold: first, many farmers realize the intrinsic value of recreation for themselves and their children. They have begun to see what it does for health, character building, good fellowship, community spirit and happiness in the rural community. Many men and women would like to see restored the spirit of jollity and neighborliness that went with the husking bees, singing schools, spelling-downs and barn dances of their youth. In the absence of social recreation in their neighborhood, their children tend to take the family car and go to town for their amusement. Many would find much of their play among the neighbors if there were a program in operation. Fortunately the development of numerous farm organizations among adults and of the 4-H Clubs for boys and girls has created mediums for recreation and sociability which the farmers are beginning to utilize. The second basis is that leaders in the country have begun to see the relation of the social recreation to the economic recovery of the farm.

President Hoover has said that he considers cooperation one of the best mediums of economic

recovery among farmers. It is well known that at the basis of successful cooperation lie mutual understanding and good feeling. What better way is there to build these characteristics than recreation, social hours in connection with meetings of the Farm Bureau, the Grange, the church, of the P.T.A., athletic meets, game nights and township picnics? Strong individualism worked well among farmers in a day when individualism was the keynote of success. But that day is largely passed. Business today is highly organized, and business prospers. Where agriculture is well organized agriculture prospers, but in the main it is unorganized and suffers.

## Rural Districts at Play

There is, furthermore, an awakening among farmers to the unusual advantages of the country for varied recreation. Think of the special opportunities the rural boy or girl has for fun! Hiking, camping, climbing, hunting with home-made bow and arrow, guns or cameras, swimming, rowing, fishing, building dams, skating, skiing, coasting, snowshoeing, snowballing, making snow men and snow huts, playing ball and all the games that ample space permits, whittling, using tools, making kites, boats, stilts, planning a garden, owning pets, knowing animals, birds, flowers, trees and stars, and making collections, are some that Joseph Lee has listed. For adults, many of the foregoing things are possible, and, in addition, there is the growing appreciation that maturity brings of the ample enjoyments of glorious sunsets, fine views, the nearness of green growing things, and the accessibility of the hills and forests. The automobile has simplified the problem of social recreation in the country by increasing ease and quickness of travel among neighbors.

The interest of farming communities in recreation has been shown in two main forms: first, in securing facilities and, second, in developing leadership. I am indebted to the publications of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for most of the instances of the development of parks, play-

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Louisville, Kentucky, October 17, 1929.

grounds, picnic groves and other facilities which I shall cite.

Drayton, N. D. (population 637) has a forty-acre field which cost \$8,000. The sum was subscribed by 260 people living in five townships. The subscribers organized a park association, a nonprofit-sharing enterprise with each shareholder having one vote. A baseball diamond, bleachers, picnic benches, electric lights and water supply constitute some of the equipment. Plans call for additional facilities. The activities include special day celebrations, bathing and boating, parties, dancing, athletics and band concerts.

In Wakarusa, Indiana, (population 859), the local playground association conducts one playground during June, July and August. It is located in the town park of seven acres and is a quarter of a block in area. There are also a tennis court, a quoit court and a ball field. There are two women workers. In 1924 the season's expenditure was \$312.50 of which \$262.50 came from town funds and the balance from membership dues.

Marion Center, Pa., (population 500), formed a community association to purchase an area of fourteen acres for a park; \$2,800 was subscribed by 400 persons. The park is handled by a board of seven trustees, four of whom are farmers. The fees from concessions go into the maintenance fund.

"Picnicking has become one of the most common forms of recreation among farm people," says Wayne C. Nason, Junior Economist, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, (U. S. Department of Agriculture). "In a survey made in Minnesota during which forty of the larger farm picnics were visited during one month, there was found to be a total attendance of 200,000 people, as many as 20,000 attending one picnic. Rural picnics bring large groups of farm families together for social intercourse, for a program often consisting of addresses on important farm topics, for music, athletics and pageants, followed by a dinner in the grove. Many farm groups are organizing associations to acquire possession of their own picnic grounds. These are generally located in a wooded spot on a body of water, consist of many acres, and have such improvements as pavilions, athletic fields, outdoor ovens, tables and benches. They are generally maintained by receipts from sales, games and amusements held on the ground."

Farmers in the Crab Creek section of Wash-

ington formed an organization for historical and educational purposes which acquired a picnic grove one hundred and sixty acres in extent, twelve miles from town. Facilities include a speaker's platform, seats, a band stand and camping arrangements. There are a half-mile racing track and athletic field, a grand stand, and a dancing pavilion. Much of the work of preparing the grounds was done by volunteer labor. No charge is made for the use of the place for picnics, but there is a considerable income from concession space and dances. Membership, which is confined to those living in Washington territory prior to November 12, 1889, or their children, includes three hundred-fifty persons in three counties.

### Training Leadership

It seems clear that the farming community must depend largely on its own leadership in developing a vigorous social and recreational life. In the church, the school, the grange, the P.T.A., the 4-H Club, the farmer has enough agencies and mediums for developing recreation. Potential leaders are not lacking. What is missing is training. It is true that in a considerable number of rural districts there are leaders who, without special training, have helped to develop interesting programs. One such is the village of Dummerston, Vermont. There is an executive committee of five persons made up of the president and the chairmen of four activities committees—music, dramatics, games and special celebrations. The first committee provides a song leader and an occasional soloist for a half hour's program of singing. Any visitor to the community who can sing is invited to participate. The dramatic committee sometimes assigns a play to a single family for production. Again, players on the same telephone line are chosen so that even if in stormy weather they cannot meet, they may conduct rehearsals by telephone. Among their special celebrations are picnics, children's day, and the Fourth of July. Dummerston Center is made up of a church, a grange hall and seven houses. The attendance is from fifty to ninety. Once a year, late in the fall, there is a game dinner which includes chicken, baked corn, venison and sometimes bear meat. City prices are charged and bring in a good profit. Old Home Sunday is another annual event. Thus the people of Dummerston have learned to play and work together.

In many communities, however, there is a cry-

ing need for the training of local leaders. With no thought of setting up new recreation machinery in the country, the P.R.A.A. two years ago offered a training service for picked rural leaders to the Bureau of Extension of the United States Department of Agriculture. This was accepted and John Bradford, and lately W. P. Jackson, have been engaged in this work under the joint auspices of the Association and the federal government. The availability of this service was announced simply and briefly to the state extension leaders. Immediately there came a flood of requests. Mr. Bradford was dated up quickly in a continuous series of institutes for a two-year period, and many requests had to be rejected.

The response to this service has been astonishing. Before indicating its success, let me briefly outline the plan. The training program is directed first to the state and county extension leaders, who have a relatively long duration of employment and can thus follow up the institutes by in turn training volunteers. Prospective extension workers are frequently reached by conducting classes of seniors at the state agricultural colleges. Club leaders and boys and girls are reached in great numbers at summer roundups and camps.

The institutes are conducted for a period of from four days to two weeks and are limited usually to a maximum of seventy persons, sixteen to fifty years old. Each group receives practice and instruction in group, line and file games, folk games and dances, community singing, music appreciation, dramatic activities, and in the history, principles and practical background of recreation as applied to rural people and communities. There is no tuition. In some cases when county leaders have been skeptical about the interest of local farmers in recreation, the response has been put to a test by open country institutes among farm men and women. For instance, one able leader in the far west was very dubious about the attendance in a section where there had been crop marketing failure for two years. He was afraid not more than thirty would come. The enrollment was a hundred and forty, twice what had been asked for, and many came as far as eighty-five and a hundred miles each for the four nights of the institute. The group coming the farthest had to drive over poor mountain roads.

Up to February, 1929, there were seven percent more men than women in attendance at the insti-

tutes. One six-footer, father of a large family, said: "What this will mean to our home I cannot make clear to you. We have not known what to do with our children, but their mother and myself can lead in their cultural education and fun." A sixteen-year-old high school girl attended another institute with her mother. At the close she said: "I want to thank you so much. I have discovered what a good sport my mother is. We have not known each other before." An elderly woman tried out some of the institute activities in her woman's organization and found them enthusiastically received. Later she reported: "This is putting new life into the community." One farm woman said: "I could not keep my husband home. He was up before daylight plowing today, yet he must come tonight. We drove sixty-five miles to get here. Before we went, he lined up the children and tried out the games learned the last time."

The results of the work have already shown themselves to be far reaching. I have time to cite only a few as examples. One young fellow of nineteen has become the recreation leader of his county in California and has been so successful that he has been elected president of the county young people's agricultural council. Last May Mr. A. E. Hyde, agricultural agent in Douglas County, Wyoming, wrote the farmers of the county as follows in announcing their next meeting: "Ordinarily, just a program of business has been conducted by the director. From now on this will be changed to include interesting talks, demonstrations, and recreational stunts and entertainment programs to interest everyone." A California institute included five rural clergymen, and one in Kansas, three. They were enthusiastic about the use they could make of what they had learned. Where economic conditions have been especially bad, the institutes have been a great boon in building morale. They have acquired and accomplished even greater things.

At one of the institutes, a man in overalls sat in a corner of the hall and took no part in the games. He was asked to join. "I haven't played for forty years," he said. "I just come over to watch." After being coaxed he came on the floor. Before the evening was up, he had entered into the spirit of the games and folk dances and was having a fine time. Before he went home he confessed, "I've got five girls at home. They wanted to come to this class. I wasn't going

*(Continued on page 645)*

# Richer Uses of Music in Recreation\*

By

AUGUSTUS D. ZANZIG,

*Director, National Music Study, Playground and Recreation Association of America*

We are faced with a new challenge. If proper and adequate leadership and support can be given, we are likely to have a development of amateur music in the homes and communities of America such as only far-seeing idealists have dreamed of. I want to describe the signs of this promise and to suggest directions in which we can work for its fulfillment. But before I do this we must agree as to what is meant by *amateur* with regard to music and how it differs from some other attitudes toward music.

Professional music-making is aimed primarily at public performance. At its best it is a blessing. We are indeed fortunate in having among us talented men and women who by devoting their lives to musical performance are capable of perfect expression of the best that has been felt and conceived in music. But at its worst it is a curse, making its followers regard wages as the main if not the sole motive for singing or playing. Many a person not a professional musician has lost or given up opportunities to sing or play with others because the chorus or band or orchestra of which he or she was a member either chose or was compelled to become professional in spirit, devoting all its activity to preparing for public performances. Too many of its members lost interest because of this or else it failed to attract large enough audiences, either condition causing it to be disbanded.

On the other hand, the usual sort of community singing, such as is carried on by many luncheon clubs, is aimed primarily at mere sociability or relaxation, at placing everybody at ease on a common level of feeling. It is not a high level, judging by the songs frequently used, but a level which probably often serves as a starting ground for admirable endeavors by the group as a whole, especially when the endeavors depend more upon sentiment than upon thinking.

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Louisville, Kentucky, October 13, 1929.

## True Amateur Music—making the Need

But true amateur music-making is aimed at experience of the music itself, as music. It is a kind of pioneering or adventuring in music. It is to the music lover what exploratory walks in the country are to the nature lover. The delight and refreshment of spirit that it gives never grow stale, but become richer as the years go on. It is not a mere fooling with music, though that may also have a place, and it is not the sort whose existence depends upon frequent doses of pep from a cheer-leader; but it is a kind in which there is real and lasting enthusiasm and eager striving for excellence, no matter how simple the music or elementary the skill. It also makes for sociability, but devoted to fine, substantial music, no matter how simple, it becomes a companionship of minds and spirits as well as of hearts. There is fun in it, the best kind of fun, if the leader too is an amateur, not one of those professional "treat 'em rough, tell 'em nothin'" conductors who are not leaders but pushers. And there is the joy of growth in it—growth in understanding and craftsmanship, and a realization of fine qualities and feelings in us that our workaday activities have not revealed. It may very well include public performances, for performing in public may be a delightful adventure; but it is not dependent on these for its persistence. In an essay by Daniel Gregory Mason on music in America he says that music in our communities suffers from having much froth at the top and dregs at the bottom but very little where the good beer ought to be. It is this absent substance that is analogous, though in one sense only, to amateur music. It is genuine and substantial.

It is well to explain this, the original meaning of amateur, because the word has come to stand for mediocrity. By an amateur we usually mean a person who is not sufficiently interested or capable to perform well. By an amateurish performance

we mean a bad performance. The original meaning of the word should and can be revived, because the attitude and expressiveness of which it is the token are a way of life which becomes the more valuable as labor becomes mechanical for more and more of us, and our time for leisure increases. Leisure may mean merely freedom from outer compulsion, merely "time off"; but for the amateur it means freedom *for* something, freedom for *inner*, lasting *propulsions* and the happiness rather than mere pleasure that these can bring. When the decks are clear, he will embark on those hours of freedom with full sail set and eager heart, bound for the port of his desire.

Now this is the attitude which will bring more and more of us to richer uses of music as recreation, providing that the proper opportunities and leadership can be offered. Given this provision there will be in each of an increasing number of cities and towns throughout the country at least one good civic chorus, a symphony orchestra and a band, and a company of amateurs presenting a good light opera now and then; and not only these, but also string quartettes and other small groups of men and women, young and old, from the shops, mills, offices and professions, singing or playing *excellent* music *as well as they can* as a means of *recreation*. It is not to be expected that everyone will be an amateur musical performer, or that anyone will give all his leisure time to music. There are many other admirable fields in which to find gold. There are proper occasions for using music as a kind of joking or fooling or merely as a social harmonizer or a physiological let-off, and there will always be an important place for the sort of general spontaneous singing that we usually mean by community music. But the field of amateur music in the true sense is for most of us an unexplored area of human wealth in which there is more of the gold of delight to be found than in any other field of musical interest.

What evidence is there that a rich development of amateur singing and playing is possible? Are not the radio and phonograph being rapidly improved so that even now they leave little to be desired, even by musicians, in excellence of performance? Have not many thousands of professional performers been thrown out of employment because of these and other mechanical reproducers of music?

### The Public High Schools Give Evidence

The chief evidence is in the public high schools, where, despite all these devices, thousands of boys and girls are rehearsing daily in choruses and orchestras and bands, some of which—like the Flint (Michigan) High School a cappella Choir, and the Lincoln (Nebraska) High School Symphony Orchestra—are singing and playing the best music with amazing skill and enthusiasm. Thirty-two states have had State High School Orchestras made up of the best available high school players in the state under the direction of someone who is presumably the best leader in the State. For each of three years a National High School Orchestra has been formed, and next February another such orchestra will be organized for the national convention of school superintendents. This, like its predecessors, will be composed of about two hundred boys and girls presenting the complete instrumentation of a modern great symphony orchestra and music worthy of such an orchestra. Some of our greatest conductors have led these high school orchestras, including Gabrilowitsch, Stock, Van Hoogstraten and Walter Damrosch. Not content with school-time singing and playing, some of these boys and girls have attended summer music camps, notably the National High School Orchestra Camp in northern Michigan. Teachers College in New York, Northwestern University and the Universities of Wisconsin and Iowa have each had a new type of summer music school which is fitted as nearly as seems possible to the vital interests of such boys and girls.

What is to become of all the skill and enthusiasm when the young people have left the schools? Professional outlets for performers are now so few as to be negligible, except where the most unusually talented are concerned. Some of the students will become teachers of music in schools, but most of them will either enter other vocations or find jobs. The only musical outlet for them is amateur singing or playing. What opportunities and what quality of leadership does your community offer them? They will not want to sing under a cheer-leader or play under a third-rate fiddler or a wind-jammer. And my experience in talking with many of those who are in the most successful and lasting orchestras makes me think that they will not want to sing or play weak, merely pretty, or otherwise inferior music. They have learned through actual experience what

satisfaction there is in music at its best, and nothing less will satisfy them. At any rate, it won't satisfy them long, any more than flabby swimming or baseball playing could satisfy them.

#### Participation on the Increase

There is further evidence of the possibility of developing amateur music. Despite the great increase in the number of available passive amusements, there are, as you know, more people engaging in golf and tennis and other games and sports, including bridge, than ever before, and many of them are amateurs in the best sense, taking delight in "improving their game." Why should not a similar attitude towards singing or playing music become more common? There never was a better sport than singing or playing in a small group, when each man has to watch his part, with eyes and ears both, as sharply as ever a man watched a ball in tennis or hand-ball, and sometimes with even more distressing disasters if he misses. The fact that it has not commonly been regarded as a sport shows what a bad effect professionalism can have on even the best of sports, and how it can destroy for most of us even the memory of the musical delights that were common in the spacious days of Queen Elizabeth, when, to quote a book written during the period, every gentleman was expected to be able "to sing his part sure, at first sight, withall to play the same upon his Viol or the exercise of his Lute." In another book of the period a certain character is quoted as saying, "Supper being ended, and Musick bookes (according to the custome) being brought to the table, the mistresse of the house presented me with a part, earnestly requesting me to sing. But when, after many excuses I protested unfainedly that I could not: everyone began to wonder. Yea, some whispered to others, demaunding how I was brought up." There were no concerts in those days, but the best and loveliest choral music in the world was composed then and sung in homes. Musicians call it the "Golden Age of Choral Music."

Another source of evidence is in the adult education movement. Dr. L. P. Jacks, of Manchester College, England, a leader in this movement in England, was brought to this country last spring by the American Association for Adult Education to lecture in several cities on their subject, especially with regard to education for leisure. The core of his message was that the great-

est service to be rendered by adult education is the cultivation of skills: skill of the hands, skill of the mind, of the senses, and of the body, in the arts—that is, in music, drama, painting, sculpture and literature in all their branches—and in crafts. The adult education leaders in England are going on the faith that every one has capacity for some sort of skill, which, if cultivated, makes not only for great enjoyment but also for a fine self-respect and for freedom and strength of spirit. Our greatest undeveloped natural resources, Dr. Jacks said, are the people's capacities for skill. His word will undoubtedly tend to clear the way still further in evening schools, community centers and the like for the provision of opportunities for people of all ages to learn to sing or play with skill and with a striving for excellence, no matter how simple the music need be, in choruses, orchestras, bands, and in smaller groups, as a means of recreation.

In Madison, Wis., one of the teachers in the evening school, which is conducted under the auspices of the city board of vocational education is an excellent musician and conductor whose *classes* at the evening school are the Madison Civic Chorus and the Madison Symphony Orchestra, both of which study and perform the best music. The personnel of this orchestra, listed according to vocation, is as follows: six music teachers, a book binder, nine clerks, two bond salesmen, a dentist, a housewife, seven high school students, five instrument makers, a housemaid, a laundry woman, three clothiers, a University professor, a watchmaker, two insurance agents, a station master, a drug store woman clerk, a reporter, a grocer, three machinists, a carpenter, three barbers, a realtor, three music merchants, a mail carrier, a manufacturer, a rug cleaner, an accountant, a printer, a laborer, and a minister.

According to a report of the Federal Bureau of Education, the number of grown people who attended school during the last year increased thirty percent over the number registered the year before, a growth which the Bureau ascribes to increased leisure. This seems to be another sign of increasing interest in leisure pursuits that calls for active and devoted participation, such as is given in amateur music. The promise that it gives is supported by psychologists who have discovered that, contrary to common belief, the capacity to learn new skills or maintain old ones dwindles very little if at all as we grow into maturity.

### How Can the Possibilities Be Fulfilled?

Evidence there is of rich possibilities. What can be done to fulfill them?

First of all, a realization is needed, especially by music teachers, of the attitude and delights of the true amateur. Evidently, despite the advances made in music in many high schools, there is a large number of music teachers and professional performers who regard amateur music-making, if they ever regard it at all, as having very little or nothing to do with their vocations. If they have ever known its delights, they have forgotten them in the stress of teaching or learning to teach or in the business, the salesmanship and the hokus-pokus of maintaining a reputation and an income as a professional musician. To the typical music teacher only trivial music is for recreation, and therefore as a teacher he has nothing to do with the promotion of recreational uses of music. All music that is at all serious in purpose or requires any skill beyond the most elementary is, in his opinion, for *education*. The best music of Bach, Beethoven, and the others of the glorious company, if used by him at all, is likely to be just grist to the mill of education or stunt material for contests or the like.

This attitude accounts largely for the fact that comparatively very few school music teachers are active or at all concerned in providing opportunities for graduates of their school musical organizations to sing or play in a worthy chorus or band or orchestra in the community outside of the schools. They are too busy and preoccupied in the limited sphere of school life to have sufficient concern about music in homes, churches, community centers, and other centers of real life. They seem to assume that, given good teaching, the young people graduating from the schools will continue outside the schools the singing or playing started inside of them. The aims and quality of school-teaching are indeed of tremendous importance, but the pressure of social habits in the world outside, of dull labor, the lure of easy, sensational amusements, and of all that passes as real life, as "the thing to do," are powerful opponents. Something more has got to be done to withstand them.

The recreation leader is the logical person to help bring about a change in the teacher's attitude and to gain his co-operation in providing or promoting satisfying amateur musical activities outside of the schools. The recreation leader's philo-

sophy of play, which includes or should include the arts at their best, and his skill in starting and maintaining social organizations, must somehow be combined with the teacher's interest in growth and his contacts with hundreds of boys and girls, and with the good professional musician's standards of excellence in choice and performance of music, and set co-operatively to work.

There are encouraging examples here and there of what can be done. There are the festivals in Bangor, Me., Westchester County, N. Y., Cincinnati, Lindsborg, Kansas, and in other places; the community symphony orchestras, like the Madison one already referred to, in Kalamazoo, Cedar Rapids, and elsewhere; many a community, club, or industry band; smaller amateur ensembles in settlements, community centers, churches or clubs; the musical adventurers in a summer camp in New Hampshire playing string quartet and other blessed music out under the trees; the Mothersingers of Cincinnati and of a growing number of other places; and probably first in importance, there are the families and small neighborhood groups who sing or play together in their homes and are therefore able to say, paraphrasing Walt Whitman's lines,

"Henceforth we seek not good fortune,  
We ourselves are good fortune."

One way to begin is to seek the co-operation of one or two community groups—for instance, the schools and the church choirs—in a community enterprise such as a Christmas Festival. Then, if that has been a happy success, other agencies such as settlement groups, neighborhood or community choruses, orchestras, bands, music clubs, or parents and teachers associations, might be enlisted in a similar enterprise. Thus gradually a co-operative group of leaders could be gained and the best musical interests of the city be enlisted in providing adequate musical opportunities for high school graduates and all others interested in singing or playing in amateur groups. Many a vital chorus or orchestra or band received its start through preparation for some festival or other civic or club event. For instance, the Charleston, S. C., Symphony Orchestra has grown out of the need for music at the local Elks Club annual memorial services. About ten years ago five men played for such a service. The next year a few more played, and the number grew each year until there were enough to arouse interest in establishing a symphony orchestra. In Brunswick, Maine, a similar orchestra grew out of the need

for music between the acts of plays given by the local amateur theatrical company. In Providence, Rhode Island, a chorus, still active and successful, was started several years ago in response to a need for singing at the dedication of a new, beautiful memorial structure in a park. The provision of suitable occasions for satisfying performance is a very important means of help.

#### Adequate Leadership Essential

The most urgent and difficult need to fill in musical as in all other admirable human activities is for adequate leadership. It is hard to determine all the qualities that a conductor of a musical organization should have, for men with quite different qualities and attitudes are apparently equally successful. It is, of course, very likely that though two organizations are apparently equally successful in external matters, the members of one are receiving a richer experience than the members of the other because of differences in the personal qualities and attitudes of the leaders. A conductor should be very eager to find out what are the effects of his mode of leading on those being led. After all, the question is not under what conditions, no matter how bad they are, a chorus or orchestra or band can be kept going, but what conditions can be brought about that will make possible for the singers or players the richest experience of which they are capable. Excellence is the goal, but excellence in feeling and thinking as well as in performance. One quality or group of qualities it is certain that the leader should have; that is musicianship, that is, musical understanding and skill of some admirable sort. He should combine professional expertness with the amateur spirit.

Of twenty-eight successful amateur community orchestras studied last year, twenty-three are led by men who play at least the violin or the cello, most of them being teachers of one or the other of these instruments. Three of these leaders are supervisors of music in public schools and three others are teachers in local colleges. Four of the remaining five orchestras are also led by public school music supervisors, and the other one is led by a municipal organist. All of these conductors, except one, give only a minor part of their time to conducting. Fourteen of them receive no salary, but the conducting of four of these fourteen, namely, the director of the Portland (Maine) Music Commission, the director of

the Flint (Michigan) Community Music Association, and the directors of instrumental music in the Winston-Salem (N. C.) schools (allied to the city Community Music Department) and in the New Haven schools (his is a high school alumni orchestra) can well be regarded as a normal extension or even an integral part of the work for which they are paid. One or more members of a musical organization, who are devoted and have other personal qualities of leadership (not musical leadership) may by their influence make for its success when the conductor is lacking in such qualities. The recreation department may go far in eliciting such leadership either from members of the musical organization or from recreation leaders themselves outside of the musical organization.

#### Provision of Social Life

The greatest single extra-musical means of arousing or maintaining enthusiastic interest and loyalty in the members of any musical organization is the provision, preferably by the group itself, of some real sort of social life in addition to their making music together. This may be provided by a Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or some other kind of "party" or revel; by a dinner or banquet if there is fun as well as food; by an autumn or springtime picnic, especially if it calls for a walk in the country and for a campfire to warm bodies and hearts as well as to roast some good beefsteak or bacon; by a dance including plenty of "mixers," a "grand march" or two, and some folk dancing; or even by coffee and doughnuts now and then after a rehearsal or during the intermission. It must be that music sublimates appetite and is itself enhanced in doing so; for as many a meal otherwise dull has been made delightful by good dinner music (not counting those that have been ruined by bad music), so many a singing or playing has been made unforgettable by good talk and refreshments after it. Ask any German what has happened to hundreds of Männerchor and Singvereine which used to be and are no more.

In the small town of Springfield, Vermont, a good leader has been secured from Boston, 150 miles away, through getting for him cello pupils, whose tuition makes his weekly trip financially possible. A number of choruses secure a great leader now and then as guest conductor, the local leader inviting him. This temporary sort of lead-

ership, often extremely inspiring to all concerned, is gained in many festivals, especially at contest festivals. It is likely that as the demand for leader-training grows, the colleges and normal schools giving courses in conducting will engage for their faculties experienced, expert leaders who may be engaged for one or more rehearsals by organizations each of which has its own local leader. This will, of course, require self-forgetfulness in the local leader and the other qualities of the true amateur both in him and in the members of his organization. The Music Division of the National Federation of Settlements has recently established a training course, the first of its kind to be given anywhere, designed to prepare persons with adequate musical preparation and personal qualities to undertake musical leadership in settlements and in recreation and community centers. This course, given at the New York School of Social Work, includes a series of lectures not only in music pedagogy and the organization of musical endeavors, but also in the history, nature and varieties of human behavior; the theory and organization of settlement work; methods of community organization, and the like.

### Music and Small Groups

I hope that all the foregoing data on leadership will be helpful. But even if it is not, and no adequate leadership can be found in a given community, there is still a rich field, the richest of all, in which the recreation leader can help. It is what is called "chamber-music"; that is, music by small groups such as a string quartet or any other small combination of instruments or voices, or of both. This can provide the greatest enjoyment possible in music. Those who have experienced it are likely to be lifelong lovers of it. No enthusiasm is greater than theirs, not even a Californian's. Read Robert Haven Schauffler's book entitled *The Musical Amateur*, published by Dodd, Mead & Co. Chamber-music has the great advantage of not requiring a leader (in the ordinary sense) or much money or the many cares of starting and maintaining an organization. It provides an ideal social unit which is more likely than are larger musical groups to persist without public performances and without public acclaim or any other means of artificial respiration. Unfortunately, these advantages are a disadvantage insofar as its receiving encouragement and aid or even a beginning is concerned;

for school music teachers and recreation leaders and all others interested in promoting musical activities are often obsessed through choice or necessity with the idea of dealing with large numbers. We may talk about "quality first," but the whole world of human action around us, represented as it is by the newspapers, is designed and cries out for "quality first."

What the recreation leader can do to help the small, informal group is to provide a place, a coach and encouragement and to induce the public library or some other agency to provide suitable music. The place may be a community center, a school-room after school hours or in the summer time, a church parish house room, or, best of all, a home. Many a beautiful room in a home now dumb except for a radio or the like would be made blessed with happy human expression could it be used now and then by an invited group of musical amateurs, boys and girls or men and women, in search of adventure in string quartet playing or the like. Simple refreshments somewhere along the course or at the close of their musical pilgrimage, though not at all necessary, would add still further to their camaraderie and delight, and doubtless to the quality of their playing also. But any home without too much distraction from street and apartment noises is a good place. The coach may be any musician who is a worthy person. There are hundreds of musicians unable to lead a chorus, band or orchestra adequately who are well able to coach small groups, perhaps sitting in and playing or singing with them at their "rehearsals." Such a musician might help a large number of small groups by meeting each group only once a month or so. The coach for some groups might be a moderately advanced student, perhaps a high school student. Encouragement is given when a good place and a coach are provided, but further encouragement could be supplied by providing interesting occasions for singing or playing before appreciative groups of listeners, such as gather for a community center or settlement concert or a music club meeting, or for a suitable social function in a home. A broadcasting now and then might be very stimulating. The public library might well loan suitable music as it loans books.

### Art Belongs to All the People

In a democracy the arts belong to all the people. This means that the best in each art is for every-

one; it is not only for an "upper class." There shall be no discrimination as to social or economic standing. But it also is interpreted to mean, according to actual practice, that the worst shall have equal standing with the best, that there shall be no discrimination as to the human and qualitative standing of what is looked at, listened to, or read. From the tabloid to Milton's poetry, from the moron movie to Shakespeare, from the flashiest chromo to a Rembrandt, as well as from "Red Hot Mama" to the Bach St. Matthew Passion, all is poured into our homes or theatres, sometimes without power of choice even on the part of the few who *want* to choose. Shall the recreation leader also be without discrimination? Shall he add his support to such stuff of the cheap, low-down vaudeville house as I have seen or heard here and there performed by children on a community "Traveling Theatre" or at a community "Sing"? If this is, as I was told, what the people want in music, let's leave the supply of it entirely to the tremendously wealthy commercial amusement powers, who are becoming increasingly effective in supplying it, and let us stick to baseball and swimming and other splendidly wholesome activities.

But I can assure you as a result of our national music study that there are a surprisingly large number of people, especially young people, to whom excellent music is a beloved means of nourishment and recreation. What they evidently seek in a chorus or orchestra, in addition to delight in the music itself, is the challenge that a vital, substantial piece of music throws out to them and the growth that they feel not only in mastering its technical difficulties, but also in gradually rising to the height and fullness of its meaning as human expression. Much of the music that is poured on us from all directions gives no such challenge, no opportunity for such rising, such a leap or lift of heart and mind. It invites us to flop, which may be good for us now and then; but there are various ways of flopping, some better than others, and this is not the only kind of musical recreation, if it is recreation at all. I do not at all mean to condemn any so-called popular song *because* it is popular. There have been some admirable popular songs. But in the endless, rapid flow of songs that are poured through the channels of popular music the good ones can live little if any longer than the worst ones. Let us *choose*, and let us start and maintain other deeper channels of musical experience, the

waters of which do not evaporate or disappear in the earth, but flow into the living, everlasting sea and back again.

It has been said that our so-called popular music is the "music of the American people," a phrase hard to resist. But why should we accept as the music of an America

" . . . beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain."

(And for all else mentioned in this poem) the commercial products of men, whose work is done in, and primarily for, the artificial, skyless atmosphere of Broadway? Let us not discriminate between kinds or degrees of musical ability, but provide, insofar as our means will allow, for every interested person from the man who can scarcely carry a tune to the singer who would perform excellently in an a cappella chorus, and from the harmonica playing urchin to the violinist who would make an excellent concertmaster in a symphony orchestra. But let us look in all of them for the true amateur spirit.



IN HARMON FIELD, TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA.

# The Place of Art in Recreation\*

By

SAMUEL S. FLEISHER

*Founder, Graphic Sketch Club, Philadelphia*

The question of the hour is, what is America doing for the child of today in order that he may in every way be the finer man of the morrow? What is America doing in this line comparable to what has been credited her in the line of unexampled achievements in applying science to the comforts and conveniences of everyday life?

We are faced in this democracy with the necessity for doing those things which will bring art and beauty into the lives of the many at the earliest possible age. On all sides we see signs of great enthusiasm in this matter of art for the people, not only for fine arts of sculpture, painting, music, the dance, literature or the applied or decorative and domestic arts, but for that greatest of all the applied, of all the fine arts—the art of living. Thousands of young people toil during the day, their lives unavoidably cast upon a background of routine and sameness; the world's work must be done. To them should be offered pastures where beauty and inspiration may be gathered, places where rich and poor alike may give expression to their finer emotions.

## Art and the People

To accomplish this in America should not be impossible. Everywhere men and women are giving thought as to how all the possibilities of the school life period may be realized and how museums and art galleries may be made a part of the everyday life of the young, of adults and of the home. That in certain instances we are reaching out in the right direction is shown by the fact that at an international conference on museums, the directors of the museums at Lyons, France, and at Brussels, said the art museums of America are getting nearer to the people and doing more for the children of the country than is the case in Europe. And at an international conference of librarians it was pointed out that the libraries of America are unique in their efforts to get at the

public and to become an accessory of the home as well as the school.

In all centers throughout the country there are untouched fields that we must develop if we are to attain our highest aim. It should be remembered that we must exercise the souls as well as the bodies. Even the "sound mind in the sound body," supposedly the concern of the old pagan education, called for an extensive training in the arts, in poetry, music, the dance, painting and sculpture. And in view of the very stress of things physical and mechanical in modern life, we must insist that the spiritual as well as the physical be made a matter of great concern in the recreation movement and in American life in general. Art with us cannot be aristocratic, something to be enjoyed and understood by the few, for art itself is the most democratic thing in the world. And a triumphant democracy will be empty of accomplishment unless it represents the triumph of the arts in life instead of mere physical well-being. The approach to art is simple when one really understands it. Art itself knows no caste, no class, no distinctions, no conditions of birth, and very often passes over the heads of the rich only to drop its choicest blessings in some little court where one would least expect it. The people can be trusted to enjoy art, to understand it and to live with and by it. For we all have within us the love of flowers, music, pictures, good plays, wholesome dancing, good reading and of the simple and magnificent phenomena of nature—the slant of the sun across the shut-in courts or noisome alleys, the gleam on the tower or on the skyscraper and of the still, small voice of the wind among the trees.

## Why Not a Temple of Youth?

The question we are facing is how to utilize all the various movements that are now a part of American life so as to give art its proper place in every department of our educational efforts as

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Louisville, Kentucky, October 15, 1929.

well as in home life and in the life of every center. As we look at the great recreation grounds being established for the young, at the stadiums and similar facilities, we realize that municipalities that are up-to-date are concerned about the play of youth as an antidote to idleness and crime, and with the use people in general are making of their leisure which has come as the result of industrial advancement. Why not let us insist that in every great center whatever else may be done for the benefit of the people there shall be a Temple of Youth, a real palace of delight in which all those recreational, creative and interpretative activities in which art plays its part should be enshrined?

In such a Temple of Youth the theatre would have its place as well as the music hall, and the dance would be brought into its own. The beauty that adheres in every phase of interpretative art should be revealed first in the building itself, which should be distinguished in all its exterior and interior appointments. But, in addition, the existence of such a Temple of Youth should make it possible to hold exhibitions in works of art, in sculpture and painting, to carry on concerts and to develop a center where could be shown not only the works of those who have arrived but would also give an outlet for the productions of those who have not arrived—the artists and artificers who above all need to be brought in contact with a larger public and to experience the encouragement of public appreciation.

This Temple of Youth would fit in well with the plans for public improvements which are going on in so many cities. Our municipalities and our schools are spending many millions on recreation features which deal with only a relatively narrow aspect of the life of the young. We must keep in mind the fact that the Olympic Games which made a little town in Greece memorable in all history did not overlook the finer things of life, and the poets there were as conspicuous as the athletes. And so it would seem an extremely practical thing to develop in American life such Olympic centers which will be worthy of the democracy of the twentieth century.

#### Art Sanctuaries in the Public Schools

I can see no reason why every public school in the United States should not play its part in the development of a municipal center by having its own art sanctuary—a sanctuary which, by be-

coming a part of the daily life of the child, would bring art to the home of the present generation in a way unique in every particular. All that is required to establish such an art sanctuary in any public school, the expense of which may easily be inconsiderable, is that a quiet room should be set aside where the representative arts may be installed and where anyone, teacher or pupil, may enter for the purpose of contemplation. In developing this art sanctuary the cooperation of the local museum, which at the best most children see only a few times a year, could be secured, and the museum might be brought into the school through exhibitions of pictures and sculptures. The various schools of art in any given center might also cooperate through exhibitions of contemporaneous art, examples of which might be purchased under very easy conditions from year to year by the graduating classes or by the student body as a whole. And in addition to this the art sanctuary would be made the focus for school exhibitions, work done by the students in the decorative and creative arts and in all those activities that are part of the art training in the schools, thus supplementing the use of the auditorium where student choruses, orchestras and dramatic performances are given full play. The cooperation which is necessary here, apart from the use that might be made of all school buildings now existing, is that the architects of the public schools bear in mind the need for these art sanctuaries and leave certain wall surfaces in the corridors which would provide for exhibitions of paintings and of sculptures and would make possible the application of murals on a larger scale than has ever before been done in this country.

It must be plain that in any given center where the schools may set up, in addition to the auditoriums and the playgrounds which they now have, not only an art sanctuary but a Temple of Youth, the students could indulge in cultural Olympics which would lead to such concern of the soul as has never been known anywhere in the past. Here all the existing cultural activities in the public schools could be brought into focus. There would be not only the rivalry of athletic games but that of intellectual and creative activities. There is no reason why competitions in music, in the dance, in the arts, in poetry, oratory, debating and, so far as applied arts go, in every possible form of handicraft, should not be made a part of school life and aesthetic awards be made as conspicuous as the awards that now come in athletics for the

individual and for the group. If there are to be, in connection with the newer expenditures of the schools, a greater expansion of baseball and football grounds and of stadiums for the exercise of the body, we should not be timid about insisting that our schools in one way or another should be stadiums of the soul.

#### The People Can Be Trusted With Art

There are millions of people whose souls are hungry, whose ears are open to the call of art. The people can be trusted with art. I do not mean that the untrained masses appreciate the best in art; on the contrary they have a natural tendency from rather toward the restrained and the aesthetic. I do believe, however, that the vast majority of children, whether rich or poor, are susceptible to the message of true art and that if such teaching is applied in the child's most receptive years the effect will be pronounced and lasting. When once the child becomes imbued with correct standards of appreciation they adhere to him and he applies them. Each of us can be, aye, even is, an artist in the widest sense of the term, and the recognition of this from the days of childhood to maturity is fraught with profound possibilities and opens up the wider horizon of a golden age of nobility and beauty for all.

It is from my personal experience with the work of the Graphic Sketch Club that I have supreme confidence that all these things can be done. This club is both a school of art for those who are employed in the day time and have no opportunity for study except at night, and a social center for the region in which it is situated and for the city at large. It is located in what is called the foreign section of Philadelphia in one of the oldest parts of a very old city, and within easy access of the club are some of the worst courts and alleys and the worst housing conditions in what is known to the country at large as the "City of Homes." What has been accomplished in the club has been made possible through night classes in drawing, painting, illustration, sculpture and all the associated arts, and through classes in dancing and through the social relaxation which brings out the best in those who come to the club as human beings and as social units of a great city. Again, excellent results have been secured through the use of the museum in the club whose objects of beauty and rarity have never been taken away though they are open and

free to all to look at and to touch. Through the permanent and annual exhibition galleries—and indeed all the hallways and rooms in the club are exhibition galleries—an opportunity is given to arriving and arrived talent to show what it can do. Above all the most subtle inspirations have come through the art sanctuary, a remodeled church, abandoned by the denomination that owned it, and here not only the eye, but the ear, through good music is trained in all those things which add beauty to life.

A source of great encouragement lies in the statement of Dr. L. P. Jacks, the British expert on constructive citizenship, who on visiting the Graphic Sketch Club, now a generation old, said that this institution in Philadelphia is the nearest approach in its ideals and practical results to what he is seeking of anything he has seen anywhere.

#### The Future Is Hopeful

My experience with the club naturally leads me to believe emphatically in the value of art as a social solvent, especially when it is brought into the lives of the young in congested cities who have small opportunities of enjoyment, but who through such organizations as the Graphic Sketch Club have been given an opportunity to develop what is in them as well as to appreciate the achievements of others. Both the artists and the people need music, lectures, the theatre and other things sometimes classed as luxuries, but which really are necessities of the soul. To help the artist to supply this and to help the people to realize it is no mean service.

The work of thirty years has made me optimistic as to what our schools and municipalities can do. One meets everywhere unexpected co-operation that is most heartening. We need to remember that we must start in today along the lines laid down by experience in order to realize the happier tomorrow. If this is well done the future is underwritten and will see the rich fulfillment of our present preparation. The ground-work has already been laid and the actual achievement of many things I have suggested is closer at hand than anyone supposes. In another generation America may easily take its place in an age in which all the arts may be applied to life in a way which has never before been experienced. We are a people of infinite promise and possibilities, but to achieve anything calls for complete cooperation, and the obligation rests upon every-

one to further the practical plans that lead to spiritual futures. Each one of us must be in the broadest sense an artist—an artist who plays upon life as an organist plays upon keys and transforms the simplest of motifs into a thing of beauty.

The real spirit of the Graphic Sketch Club of Philadelphia was brought to the Recreation Congress by its founder Samuel S. Fleisher who, through the showing of stereopticon slides and a home talk, took those who attended the session on a visit to the Club House located in a congested section of Philadelphia.

Mr. Fleisher said that for every child that goes to a playground, there is one in every fifty that is not adapted to group play and these children, he has found, are as susceptible to fine influences as any other child. Many such children living in the poorer sections of crowded cities have never had any soul stirring influence and when such an experience is brought to them they are exceptionally receptive.

Mr. Fleisher has worked for thirty years in a congested area but in all his experience has failed to find a totally depraved child. He has found that without exception children joyously respond to beautiful pictures, flowers and the other fine things of life. He told of buying tickets for concerts in lots of four and five thousand and of the interest and desire to hear fine music on the part of the poorer people who applied for the tickets.

Wherever one turns, he said, children are creating something. The humble beginning of the Graphic Sketch Club centered in the story of three boys in a group on the side walk who were heard discussing a chromo. One liked it because he said he could walk miles in it, one, because of the color, and another because it made him think of pleasant things. They were asked if they would like to create pictures. They were delighted with the idea and were told to come and bring others whom they knew would be interested. Eight boys came to the first class. The group continually grew until a large building was necessary and the fine beautifully artistic Graphic Sketch Club was built.

There are now 2000 students enrolled in their classes. The average nightly attendance is 700. The classes are under the direction of eighteen competent instructors who guide the students in etching, drawing, fashion design, lettering, sculpturing and landscape work. The aim of the Club

is to give everyone an opportunity for self expression along cultural lines.

Everyone is made to feel at home and everything is free. Rich and poor come in on the same basis. There is no age limit and the classes include those from the age of seven to men and women in the seventies. Every nationality is represented. There are no restrictions and no signs have ever been put up. No publicity is sought and there is no advertising. All classes, without exception, are among their number; with the normal students are included convicts, neurotics, kleptomaniacs and others in the handicapped class.

The pictures thrown on the screen during the talk showed the home of the Graphic Sketch Club, the students at work, beautiful pictures on the walls and pieces of sculpture everywhere.

Among former students are artists of renown and their work has been on exhibition both here and in foreign countries. While all who enjoy the privileges of the Club do not achieve a great measure of success, without doubt the lives of many are greatly enriched through seeking self expression through the arts.

## Los Angeles to Have Greek Theatre

A "1930 Model" Greek theatre with elevator service and hot and cold running water, emergency hospital, kitchen and dining room for the cast, a garage and other modern facilities, is the plan of the Los Angeles Board of Park Commissioners. The theatre is the gift of Colonel J. Griffith, donor of Griffith Park, who in his will set aside \$100,000 for the project. Since 1919 when Colonel Griffith died, \$20,000 in interest has accumulated. The Park Commission will provide the additional money necessary to make the sum \$150,000, the amount required.

The structure, of Greek architecture, will be 100 feet in width and fifty feet in depth. The stage will be seventy feet wide between the wings of the building and will have a depth of forty-seven feet. The seating capacity is estimated at about 5,000. A huge basement, which occupies all of the area beneath the stage and the seating section, will be entered by means of a tunnel with a private driveway leading to a garage with a

(Continued on page 646)

# Report of Committee on Standards in Playground Apparatus

It is almost universally agreed that apparatus has an important place on the playground because it is a body developer, the children enjoy it, it is useful in developing skills, and its presence on the playground makes possible the caring for a larger number of children than would otherwise be possible. Furthermore, it permits a variety in the program and relieves the pressure on the director otherwise caused by too much organization. Apparatus also serves as an inducement to children to enter the playground and it may prove a means of interesting them in other types of playground activities. On the other hand, there is a considerable difference of opinion as to the relative merits of the various kinds of playground apparatus and many recreation executives believe that only a minimum amount of apparatus should be installed.

## Values and Principles Involved

Perhaps the most important value of playground apparatus is that it provides an outlet for the well known play interest of children, such as climbing, swinging, hanging with hands and feet, sliding and balancing, and also a means of enjoying various kinds of motion. The modern town and city provides little opportunity for children to do these things which children have done from time immemorial, and in filling this need even under a less naturalistic environment, apparatus serves a very worthy function. In selecting apparatus for a given playground it is advisable to include the types which serve the various outstanding play interests. Apparatus that has a biological appeal will be found most valuable, although that which provides fun as well as that which has definite developmental possibilities should receive consideration.

Some of the factors that may influence the decision to include or omit a certain piece of apparatus on a given playground are the size of the area, the trained leadership available, intensity of use and the ages and interests of the children using it. Certain apparatus might be installed in a park or municipal playground that would not

have a place on a school playground used primarily in connection with the physical education program. In the case of a large playground it may be advisable to install a set of traveling rings for example, although in a limited area this piece of apparatus should perhaps be omitted altogether or the circular type of traveling rings be used. Some types of apparatus such as the slide may be safely used with comparatively little supervision, whereas apparatus of the gymnastic type, such as the parallel bars, requires careful and expert supervision. Climatic conditions are also a factor and such riding apparatus as swings and the merry whirl is much more popular with children in the Southern States, especially in the summer, than the slide, giant stride, horizontal bar, etc.

Where limited funds make it possible to purchase only a few pieces, it is advisable to select apparatus which will accommodate the largest numbers. A slide, for example, offers greater service than a set of swings although it does not accommodate as wide an age group. If the playground is in a neighborhood where people are interested in gymnastics, or if it is to be used by school children in connection with the physical education program, more apparatus of gymnastic type such as the horizontal bar, flying rings, etc., may well be introduced than in the park or community playground where this type of apparatus might receive little use. It is apparent that the ages of the majority of the children using a given playground are a factor in determining the selection of apparatus. The slide, swings and sand boxes appeal especially to the younger children, whereas such apparatus as the horizontal bar, giant stride and traveling rings are more popular with the older ones. Experience has shown that apparatus that is of the best construction is most satisfactory and cheapest in the long run.

In order that playground apparatus may serve its purpose most effectively the following factors should be given consideration: proper location, arrangement and erection, regular inspection, careful supervision, marking off of apparatus zones, care of ground underneath apparatus and instruction in its correct use.

There is considerable difference of opinion among recreation executives and playground planners as to the arrangement of apparatus on the playground. It is almost universally agreed that if apparatus is provided for children of pre-school age it should be erected in a section set aside for the exclusive use of this group. In many of the larger cities apparatus for children of elementary school age is erected in two separate sections of the playground, one devoted to the girls and to the boys from 7 to 10, and the other to the older boys. Two sets of apparatus are therefore required, although they need not be identical. In some cities the playgrounds, especially when located on school property, are divided on a strictly sex basis, the girls of all ages having one section and all the boys another.

On the playgrounds in the majority of cities, however, only one set of apparatus is provided for children of school age. It is used primarily by the children from 6 to 12, although it is available for use by the older children. This arrangement not only makes for economy of space and avoids duplication of apparatus, but some workers believe that it is desirable for boys and girls to use the same apparatus. In the average community this arrangement is likely to prove satisfactory.

#### Types of Playground Apparatus

As pointed out, so many factors must be taken into consideration in deciding what pieces of apparatus should be erected on a given playground that it is difficult to select a set of minimum standards for general use. Before recommending such standards the following brief comments are given on several of the most common types of apparatus:

*Swings.* Very popular with children from three to twelve years or older, both boys and girls. The swing has considerable muscular development value, teaches confidence and has social value due as children must take turns. Chair swings are recommended for pre-school age children and ten to twelve feet high frames for older children. In almost universal use.

*Slides.* Very popular with children three to twelve years old, both boys and girls. Has some muscular development value and serve many children in quick rotation. Kindergarten slides three to four feet high for pre-school children and eight feet high slides (about sixteen feet

long) for older children are recommended. Under certain conditions higher slides with safety platforms may be used but are not recommended for the average playground. The slide is in almost universal use.

*Sand Box.* Probably most popular feature of playground for pre-school children—also used by older children to lesser degree. Should be on every playground. Desirable to have two boxes, one for small children and the other for modeling by older children. Sand boxes should have shelter above them, either tree, roof or awning, and also a cover to be put on when not in use.

*Low Climbing Apparatus.* Comparatively new type of apparatus. Very highly recommended by school and playground workers who have used it. Popular with boys and girls of wide range of ages, and a certain type accommodates a large number at one time. Has both muscular development and recreative values.

*Horizontal Ladder.* Popular with boys and girls of elementary school age. On many playgrounds. Reasonably safe and has considerable value in physical development. Should be from six and one-half feet to seven and a half feet high.

*Horizontal Bar.* Popular with boys and to a lesser extent with girls. Valuable for physical development and for stunt use. Desirable to have height adjustable or to have more than one bar of different heights provided, at least for boys.

*Giant Stride.* Popular with boys and girls eight years or older. Has muscular development values. Considered too dangerous by some workers, but danger can be reduced by using knotted ropes or aluminum handles, by instructing boys and girls in its use, and by providing careful supervision. Considered standard apparatus in many cities.

*Traveling Rings.* Popular with older boys, and to a lesser extent with older girls. Has considerable muscular development value. New circular type has replaced the line type in many cities since it requires less space and in some cities is considered a substitute for Giant Stride.

*Balance Beam.* This simple apparatus, easily constructed, has value in developing poise and balance. Is considered especially valuable for girls and is used in various physical efficiency tests.

*See-Saws.* Found on many playgrounds and on the recommended list although many recreation executives do not approve their use. Popular with the younger children. It is important to

have the fulcrum low—not more than twenty-two inches above ground.

*Other Apparatus.* Although other types of apparatus were considered by the committee, none of them was included in the set of standards recommended. The gymnasium frame is found on many playgrounds, but it is believed to be better, as a rule, to provide the separate pieces of apparatus rather than to combine them in a gym frame. Certain pieces of apparatus often included in the frame, such as flying rings and trapeze, are considered too dangerous, and a slide attached to a frame is too high for general use. The many types of whirling or revolving apparatus are held to have less value than the kinds recommended and to provide a greater hazard due to the cumulative power developed on them resulting from the large number of children accommodated at one time. It is agreed that such apparatus attracts children to the playground and that under certain conditions it may be desirable to install one of these devices, if properly constructed and supervised.

#### Suggested Standards

The following list of apparatus is recommended as the minimum standard for the average playground. The standard suggested is not intended to serve primarily the special requirements of a school physical education program although to a considerable extent it will meet these needs in addition to providing apparatus of the playground or fun type. It is recognized that it will often be necessary to adapt the standard to meet local conditions and special needs. The apparatus listed, however, is believed to include the various types having the greatest value.

Standards are suggested for the use of both the pre-school children and those of elementary school age. One set of apparatus will serve the latter group in most communities but standards are also suggested for the guidance of communities where it is considered desirable to provide separate apparatus for different groups of school age.

*The minimum standards recommended are:*

For pre-school age children— (Under 6 years)	Chair swings (set of 6) Sand box (in 2 sections) Small slide Simple low climbing device
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For children of elementary school age, (6-12 years and older)	Swings—frame 12 feet high (set of 6) Slide—8 feet high (approx. 16 feet long) Horizontal ladder Traveling rings or giant stride Balance beam See-saws (set of 3-4) Horizontal bar Giant stride or traveling rings (whichever is not provided above) Low climbing device
Optional if available funds, space and attendance justify.	

In case boys and girls of school age are to be separated on the playground and separate apparatus is to be provided for each of the sexes, the apparatus recommended in the standards should be installed for each group except that the horizontal bar may be omitted from girls' section and the balance beam from the boys'. When two sets of apparatus are to be provided for the children of school age, one for all girls and for boys up to 10 years old, the other for boys above 10 years, practically the same types should be provided as when all the boys and girls are separated, except that the climbing device may be omitted from the older boys' section.

#### Other Important Considerations

In the standards suggested above there have not been included such facilities as a wading pool, tables and benches for handcraft and games, jumping pits and standards, nor game courts and equipment. All of these facilities are important or essential but they are not commonly considered as playground apparatus. The committee recommends, however, that a pair of basket ball backstops and volley ball posts be considered as essential equipment for every playground. Equally important is the provision of a generous supply of game materials such as bats, balls, jacks, bean bags, horseshoes, large building blocks, etc. Material for handcraft of various types should also be available. It is assumed that every playground provides some sort of shelter with toilet facilities. The committee also wishes to go on record as recognizing that adequate trained leadership is more important than apparatus in determining the success of a playground.

Note: This report was adopted by a committee of seventeen recreation executives, not as a final statement on the subject but as a guide to committees selecting apparatus for their playgrounds. The report represents the opinion of the majority of the committee members rather than a unanimous opinion with respect to certain types of apparatus recommended. Comments and suggestions on the report will be welcomed by the committee and it is suggested that such comments be sent to the P. R. A. A. in care of George Butler. It has also been suggested that it would be valuable if recreation workers would make studies of the popularity of various types of apparatus, the number of children served, the length of time they are used, the number of accidents occurring on different pieces of apparatus and other studies that would have a bearing on the subject discussed.

The members of the committee are:

L. R. Barrett, Newark, New Jersey.  
W. C. Batchelor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.  
W. C. Bechtold, Evanston, Illinois.  
C. E. Brewer, Detroit, Michigan.  
J. J. Downing, Brooklyn, New York.  
Charles H. English, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
M. Esthyr Fitzgerald, Utica, New York.  
A. E. Genter, Pontiac, Michigan.  
Ernst Hermann, West Newton, Massachusetts.  
George Hjelte, Los Angeles, California.  
W. F. Jacoby, Dallas, Texas.  
Philip Le Boutillier, Irvington, New Jersey.  
Mrs. Chester G. Marsh, White Plains, New York.  
E. A. Pritchard, Niagara Falls, New York.  
W. L. Quinlan, Tampa, Florida.  
John Reel, Fort Myers, Florida.  
R. W. Robertson, Oakland, California.

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## Activities for Girls in Miami

The Miami, Florida, Recreation Department, has a staff limited to two year-round workers and a budget which is inadequate to the demands upon it, but in spite of these difficulties an interesting program for girls is being conducted.

There is no supervisor of physical education in

the schools and it has fallen to the lot of the girls' workers of the Recreation Department, with the cooperation of school principals, teachers and high school girls to meet the needs along this line for the grammar school girls. To accomplish this she has taught games to the teachers and trained as referees a group of high school seniors who receive credit in physical education for their services. In this way it has been possible to conduct a full year's program of low organized games competition for the school girls of the city.

At the end of the school year eight outstanding girls in as many sections of the city were selected as a nucleus for eight regional sandlot baseball teams. Each girl gathered about her the girls of her neighborhood who were interested in playing baseball twice a week throughout the summer. Every sandlot baseball team has an appointed place to meet, on the steps of a school, church or similar place, and twice a week the recreation leader for girls drives one of the cars or trucks of the Park Department to the appointed spot and takes that team to a section of the city where a second team is waiting to play in an open lot. Through this method a continuous program of organized games is conducted without facilities or leadership other than the services of the worker in charge of girls' activities.

Once a week this leader drives around the city in one of the largest Park Department trucks and picks up at the designated places all of the sandlot baseball players and their friends who wish to go to the beach. She takes with her a playground kit and spends the morning on the beach with the girls in organized games and water sports. This plan makes it possible for a comparatively large number of adolescent girls to enjoy a recreation program three mornings a week with a minimum of leadership and expense. In addition to this program for the school girls, the girls' work director spends each Saturday morning of the school year teaching dancing classes for various age groups at the Municipal Bandstand. The girls learning the dances formed the nucleus of a beautiful May festival produced by the Recreation Department at the park.

Recreation for business girls has not been neglected, for the Department has had a most successful basketball league and a volley ball league. A movement is now on foot to secure through a number of the churches, lighted volley ball courts which will make possible an inter-church volley ball program.

# Sports for Sport

*(Concerning an American Public School Where They Play for Fun, and Not for Medals, Letters or Championships)*

By

FARNSWORTH CROWDER

A national playground official was visiting recently the Cheyenne Mountain School near Colorado Springs.

"And what plan have you in force here?" he asked the Superintendent, Lloyd Shaw, after witnessing a folk dancing exhibition.

"No plan," said Mr. Shaw, "we just play."

The aim at Mr. Shaw's school is to play "for the fun of it," to indulge in sport for the sport's sake, to keep alive the spirit of the amateur, to discourage the lust for awards.

A few years ago, Cheyenne Mountain School engaged in every form of competitive athletics. With less than fifty students in its senior high school, it could produce a football team of state championship caliber. "The reputation of that team," says Mr. Shaw, "was one of the most damaging assets this school ever had. It took four years to get over it."

Football has been abandoned. In fact basket-

ball is the only sport in which the school produces a team for competition, and even then it remains outside the county league. Games are played with the best teams in any part of the state. When the season is over no claim can be laid to any sort of championship; no medals are awarded, no letters, no sweaters. The game is played for the zest and challenge of it, for the purpose of doing the cleanest, finest job possible. During a typical year, such as the one past, the team will lose one game on a strenuous schedule. Rival coaches will say again and again: "My boys would rather play Cheyenne than anyone else. They give us a terrific battle—and yet a clean one, straight through."

What, then, can the athletic department be doing if it is not producing small groups of select individuals to glorify the dear old school? At Cheyenne, the activities proceed from two convictions: first, that which is now commonplace, that *every* student should receive attention;



THE CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN FOLK DANCING TROUPE STARTS FOR THE EXHIBITION IN THE BUS BELONGING TO THE STUDENT BODY

second, that the comparatively sedentary life of the modern adult will not permit him to play football or basketball or run the mile.

In so far as they have a system at all, they term it "individual gym." Each student selects for a term one or two or three sports in which he desires coaching. The range is almost unlimited: skiing, skating, swimming, boxing, gymnastics, handball, tennis, fencing, archery, mountaineering and others.

The pupil indicates on a card kept in the physical director's office the number of hours he spends per week on each of his selected sports. He does not fool around at these activities; he studies their theory, watches the work of the more experienced and receives coaching from the director. Thus, skiing does not begin and end simply with sliding down hills; it is concerned with turns—Telemarks, Christiannas,—and with the technique of jumping. Skating is not confined to speed skating or hockey but is more likely to take the form of fancy skating on rockers. The school library is stocked with the finest manuals on every activity. These books are read and their contents applied. The coach is a remarkably versatile young man and members of the faculty are very capable in certain sports.

The hope is that every student will leave the school with a genuine skill in two or three sports, sports of the sort he can practice in mature life. Practically everybody in the junior and senior high schools can play tennis; many of them skate, many more swim; some are good archers or golfers. Yet few or none of the boys have played football, very few have engaged in any sort of interscholastic competition. Is very much being lost? Are they being denied anything vital?

This sporting amateur attitude extends to other play activities. Cheyenne School is well known through Colorado for its work in the dance. Dancing is a part of the work for girls from the fourth to twelfth grades. Miss Marian Elser, a Perry-Mansfield student and artist with their companies, has been in charge of the work. More striking, but no less important than the work in aesthetic dancing, have been the achievements with the folk dance. It is questionable whether any other public school in the country has been so successful with this form of dancing. The Cheyenne students have endeared themselves to Colorado. They appear in cities over the state, have been invited to neighboring states, and there has been talk of sending them east. The number

of dances the students know is amazing; and the skill and dash and grace with which they do them is fascinating and bewildering. How do they do it?

The answer is not altogether in the coaching they receive, nor in a natural aptitude for learning but rather in the spirit with which the whole job is tackled and carried through. The charm of an exhibit is in the strenuous happy gusto of the dancers and in the almost complete absence of self-consciousness. The dancing is hilarious, skilled, shameless, even when mistakes are made. Folk dance parties are held on Wednesday nights through the winter. Most of the dancers have costumes, and the gymnasium becomes a whirl of color and light. The dances are exacting and many of them extremely exhausting. Yet boys and girls alike stick to it, work hard, love it. In consequence they have become demanded entertainers and travel as much as time and energy permit.

A like spirit of willingness and energy extends to the outdoor activities. Located at the very foot of Pike's Peak and the Rampart Range, the school has every opportunity for mountaineering. A truck and a twenty-passenger DeLuxe motor coach—purchased by the students—will transport a majority of the high school student body. In the fall and spring over-night camping excursions are made. The students own three large Indian tepees and take these along for sleeping accommodations. In the winter there are skii parties into the high country. The basketball team travels in the coach and is able to carry twice the number that formerly enjoyed the trips by train. In the spring there are suppers in the hills, folk dances and field trips.

Instead of having the usual "Pikers' Day," the senior class, which is always small, drives the hundred and fifty miles to Rocky Mountain National Park. Transportation costs half a cent a mile. Hotel rates are given, meals are taken by the roadside with the help of a complete camp kitchen equipment. "The Senior Pike" is a lark and an education.

An important bit of equipment for the mountaineering activities is a fine log cabin purchased by the student body some years ago. It is located in mountain country above the famous Seven Falls. The meals there, the hilarity of games played there, the quiet thrill of a song or story hour about the open fire, the stillness of nights spent there belong surely to the province of play and recreation in its best sense.



THE THEATRE-IN-THE-WOODS, CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

The Cheyenners play hard and for fun. It is a gay, courteous, refreshing group of young people. And the secret of their success at play is not in any plan or wealth of equipment. It is,

rather, in a childlike attitude—a desire to "have fun," to gain the mastery of something new and difficult, to win satisfaction and confidence.

## Block Group Play

Mrs. Elma Inez Chandonia of San Diego, California, in *The High School Teacher*, tells of her experience in organizing a local group play for the junior high school children in her neighborhood. She started the work under the auspices of the Community Service but has continued it on her own responsibility.

As her experience in block group play began in her childhood when her mother established an evening play-time period in her own home, Mrs. Chandonia says—

"It was only natural when my daughter grew old enough to need the experience of group play that I should want her to have the same happy companionship that had blessed my childhood, and so I invited the children of the neighborhood

to my home one day and we organized the Marigold Club.

"Boys and girls up to twelve years of age were members of this club and we held a meeting once a week. We usually spent an hour or more singing old familiar songs, telling stories, reciting poetry and dramatizing fairy tales. The children never seemed to tire of playing the parts of the characters in the famous old folk tales and each meeting some one would read a new story and then appoint a child for each part. We usually finished the meeting with some games, either indoor or outdoor according to the mood of the children or the weather. This group of children met for purely recreational purposes in the highest sense, and there was never any effort

put forth to increase their scholastic abilities, although it was quite natural that some results of this nature should follow. It was never my thought to play up the work of the more talented children, but my great desire was that each child, even the most bashful, timid, self-conscious, little fellow, should have a natural opportunity to express himself in the presence of his playmates and to share equally with them the joys of this happy childhood association.

"The Marigold Club was very successful and many happy memories were fashioned through contact with this group play. The never-to-be-forgotten occasions when we took our lunch and roamed over the hills in search of tumble down barns and rustic scenery to sketch—children love to do that sort of thing—will always be recalled whenever the members of that group meet. They will remember what queer looking pictures we drew of the old mother cow and her calf near the romantic little vine covered cottage; how we found an inviting place to eat our lunch; what a jolly time we had reciting our poems and telling our stories to the great outdoors, and best of all what an elegant setting for the fairy tales.

"We have had other groups similar to the Marigold Club in other neighborhoods and each one has fulfilled its purpose in weaving precious memories to enrich later years, and in teaching many lessons in neighborliness and good fellowship; but the group that has been the most fruitful in every way is the Golden Hours Club in the neighborhood in which we are now living.

"The Golden Hours Club is more nearly a block play group in the fullest sense of the term than any other group that I have directed. There are between 25 and 30 children in our block, old enough to take part in group activity. Many of the mothers and fathers of these children are busy with other affairs and in some cases both parents work, leaving the home recreation of the children somewhat undirected. This condition makes block group play especially welcome in this neighborhood.

"We have had many jolly times in our block rehearsing for pageants and plays which we put on in the alley or in a neighbor's large garage. These were gay occasions and all the neighbors, relatives, and friends were invited. The harmless pranks on Halloween followed by the "Big Party"; the happy evening spent in practicing Christmas Carols which we sang while wandering around the neighborhood on Christmas Eve;

the long hikes down into the valley when the river is running and many other wonderful experiences make up the activities of the Golden Hours Club. We held regular meetings on Friday afternoons until most of the members entered junior high school and could not get home early enough to attend and now we have a plan on foot to meet Saturday evenings.

"Our regular meetings are well organized having a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. We practice strict rotation in office electing new officers once a month. This allows every child to grow into an understanding of the responsibilities of the group and also prevents envy and dissatisfaction among the children who seem less capable of holding office. Everybody does the best he can and fears no criticism for none is allowed in the Golden Hours Club.

"We are fortunate in having a vacant lot next to my home and the owner kindly consented to let us use it for a playground until it was sold. The children play on this lot whenever they have a few spare moments. With the proceeds of a very wonderful neighborhood circus which we gave on the lot last summer we purchased a good football, a volley ball and net, and a set of horseshoes. I have charge of the balls and horseshoes and every child in the neighborhood has the privilege of playing with them any time with only one condition—that they return them to me when they are through playing. Everyone is content with the conditions and I believe it would be hard to find a happier group of children in any neighborhood.

"Block group play is indeed an activity worthy of a place on the child's home recreation program. It has, however, a definitely outlined place and great care must be taken that it is kept well within the bounds of its outline. There are some things that this play must not do: It must not so absorb the child's time that he is unwilling to share the work and responsibilities at home; it must not take him away from his religious training, if he is fortunate to have that privilege; it must not interfere with his school work. On the other hand, block group play should inspire the child to more willing obedience and helpfulness at home, encourage him to study and practice his Sunday School lesson, and make him more alert and able to master his problems at school. Much of this depends upon the leader of the group.

*(Continued on page 647)*

# Patriotic Parties for February

For a patriotic party such as may be held on Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, games that are a test of the players' knowledge of American history will be appropriate.

*Book Titles.* Provide the players with paper and pencils and ask them to draw a picture representing the title of some book. Historical novels are particularly appropriate. When the drawings have been completed they are passed around. The first one to receive a drawing, writes at the bottom of the sheet his guess as to the title, folds the paper so that the title can not be read and passes it on to his neighbor. When all the pictures have gone around in this way, the hostess will describe the picture and read the list of suggested titles. She will then call on the artist for the real title.

*A Picture Gallery of Presidents.* Arrange around the room the pictures of the Presidents of the United States. Each one should be numbered. Pass around small numbered cards, decorated with a patriotic seal and with a small pencil attached. The players will be surprised to find out how many of the faces are not familiar! An appropriate prize should be given the player recognizing the largest number of Presidents.

*Chopping Down the Cherry Tree.* Outline of a tree is drawn on cardboard or cloth and pinned to the wall. Blindfold each guest in turn, giving him a cardboard hatchet. Each player makes an attempt to strike a nick in the tree trunk and the one proving most successful receives a hatchet-shaped box of candy.

*Mixed Quartets.* Give each player a slip containing a number and the name of a patriotic song. There should be four slips, numbered and named alike. Announce that a musical program has been prepared but unfortunately the performers have not been notified as to what is expected of them. But that, it may be added, is a trifling matter! The four guests holding similar slips are then requested to form a quartet and sing the song assigned to them. It is well to have several music books in readiness in case the songs are not familiar.

*Old Time Magazine.* For a living presentation of an old-time magazine, make a light weight picture frame, sufficiently large to accommodate

an adult figure. Cover it with buff cambric and letter it in large black letters, *The Ladies Friend*, or *The Keepsake*. Below should appear the date, "1865, published in New York." Curtains may be substituted for the frame work. The editor, in old-fashioned costume, announces each number of magazine—

1. *Frontispiece:* An old-fashioned tableau may be used for this; for example, a "belle" in quaint brocade, seated before the mirror with a hand glass. This is announced as *Before the Ball*. Other appropriate subjects are *The Sampler* and the *Knitting Lesson*.

2. An *Editorial of Bygone Days*, read by the editor. This might be read from an old number of Godey's Lady's Book. In the light of the present day those editorials are very amusing.

3. *Music: The Maiden's Prayer.*

4. *Poem: Memory*, by Mrs. Lydia Huntley Sigourney.

5. *Story:* A narrative from an old-fashioned magazine may be read or an extract from the *Children of the Abbey*.

6. *Fashion Department:* This is illustrated by a series of tableaux young ladies posing the various old-fashioned costumes and described by the editor as a gown worn at the Prince of Wales' ball, a visiting costume with pelisse, etc.

*Blowing Cherries.* Stretch a string lengthwise of the room at floor level, in this way dividing the floor in two fields. Men stand on one side and girls on the other. No one may step over the line, touch the cherry, or be touched by it, or it goes to the opposite side.

A giant cherry (large red balloon) is thrown to the ceiling in the center of the room. When it comes down, each side, by blowing only, tries to make it touch the floor on the opposite side. The side successful in doing this puts the cherry in a basket and another one is tossed into the air. The side which first gathers ten cherries wins.

*Crossing the Delaware.* The guests are divided in two sides. One side, representing Washington's soldiers, is grouped at one side of the room; the other side, representing cakes of ice, place themselves unevenly down the length of the room so that the soldiers must wind their way around them to cross. However, there must al-

ways be room for a soldier to pick his way around and across without touching the cakes of ice. The object of the game is for the soldier to cross the room without laughing and for the ice cakes to maintain frozen faces. The soldiers have a given time in which to cross. If, in crossing, a soldier succeeds in making an icy countenance melt and laugh, the ice cake must then join the soldier's side. If an ice cake succeeds in making a soldier laugh the soldier must join the side of the cake of ice. The same penalty is given for laughing if a soldier through his own fault bumps into a cake of ice; if a cake of ice is bumped, there being no path between the cakes, or if a member of one side purposely touches one of the opposite side.

The winning team is the side which has the greatest number of players at the end of the game.

*Carrying the Colors.* Three scarfs are necessary for this relay race—one red, one white and one blue. Chairs are used for goals. Each group lines up facing the goal. A scarf is given the one at the head of each line. At a signal from the leader she throws the scarf over her partner's left shoulder and ties it on the right side at his waist. Joining hands they walk to the chair. The lady sits on it and the gentleman bows to her with right hand on his heart. He then takes the lady's hand again and they return to the line. The lady unties the scarf and passes it to the couple in back as they go to the end of the line. The line wins whose head couple first returns to place.

*Aiming at the Stars.* A large target is made of three stars of different sizes, the center white, the second red and the outer blue. The inner or white star counts fifteen points, the red ten and the outer or blue, five points. Each player is allowed two shots with a small ball at the target. If the group is a large one, three targets are prepared across the end of the room. The players, in couples, line up before the targets and in turn move up to the spot from which they take aim.

*Refreshments.* A bowl filled with red roses and blue and white corn flowers makes an appropriate centerpiece and at each plate may be placed as a favor a red, white and blue bouquet of the same flowers. The menu should consist of refreshments which are strictly American dishes, such as baked beans, brown bread, scalloped oysters and ice cream.

## What Can Be Done?\*

### FILMS MORE POPULAR THAN BASEBALL WITH Boys

Incredible as it may seem at first glance, the results of a survey recently conducted among 65,000 employed boys in continuation schools in New York state, indicated that four out of five—83%, to be exact—listed motion pictures and the theatre as one form of amusement they preferred in their leisure hours, while only 77% registered fondness for athletic sports. Reading came third, and was named as favorite by 64% of the boys.

Less than half of the boys showed an interest in physical exercise, such as hiking, swimming and rowing, when taken individually rather than in team contests. Dancing engaged the attention of about one-fourth, and 22 per cent. were interested in social clubs. Educational work and lectures appealed to comparatively few, the proportion interested being 15 to 12 per cent, respectively.

"We were impressed with the uniformity with which the boys in various cities of the state as well as in the state as a whole exhibited the same liking for similar forms of amusement," said L. A. Willson, assistant commissioner for vocational education of the state educational department. "With two exceptions, the same ranking in popular appeal is found in all forms of amusement.

"Sports would naturally appeal to the American boy of 14 to 17 and it is not surprising that they rank second in popularity. Reading is a bad third. To boys of these ages dancing does not appeal especially. A few years later in life most of these boys will be found to favor dancing.

"It is the duty of both school and society to see that ample ways of enjoying leisure time in a wholesome and beneficial manner are provided for these young people. Boys' clubs, recreation centers, libraries and playgrounds are all essential to this purpose. It is difficult for us today to compete with commercialized amusements which make such a strong appeal to our young people, but this should be done in order that their amusement propensities may be guided in the right direction."

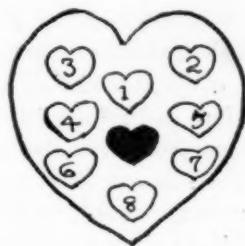
*Courtesy EDUCATIONAL FORUM*

# On Valentine's Birthday

*Valentine Match.* In a prominent place in the room have a table over which hangs the sign, "Men Register Here—Valentine Match Bureau, Inc." Have all the men sign their full names. When everyone has arrived, cut out the name each is least known by, put them in a hat and invite the girls to draw names and find their partners. A grand march is a good way in which to start the evening after the partners have been found.

*Hearts.* The equipment consists of a large heart, two feet wide and two feet long, cut from heavy paper. In this are drawn nine small hearts, six inches long and six inches wide. The large heart is painted red and all the little hearts with the exception of the one in the center which is black, are white.

1. Single Blessedness
2. Acquaintance
3. Friendship
4. Love
5. Courtship
6. Proposal
7. Engagement
8. Marriage
- Centre—Refusal



The big heart should be tacked firmly to a board and laid on the floor. To find one's fortune toss a washer and see in which heart your fortune lies. One player tosses at a time. The score is marked on each heart. If the washer lands on the refusal heart in the center, three must be deducted from the total team score. Each player is allowed two trials and the team alternate in throwing. (The heart may be hung on the wall and darts thrown.)

*Name Race.* The equipment consists of two sets of alphabets, a table and a list of half as many words as there are players. For a Valentine's party such words may be used as heart, youth, maid, flirt, beau, mate, couple, admirer, love, match, romance, cupid, angel, adore, etc.

The players are divided into two equal sides and sit facing each other with the table midway between the lines. The alphabets should be well shuffled. A word is given, duplicates being given to each side. For example, the first player on

each side would be given the word, "heart," the second, "angel," etc. The leader calls the word and the player from each side having that word rushes to the table and picks the letter out of the alphabet to form his word. The player who first arranges the letters properly wins one point for his side.

*Intermittent Heart Hunt.* In this hunt for hidden hearts, a sudden signal of the whistle calls for an immediate halt. Even though players are in the act of picking up a heart they must quickly find their partners, join the line of march and continue until the whistle gives them the signal to hunt again. This continues for two or more rounds. Then all the hearts are collected and a record is given the leader as the players march by him in couples. The man and girl who find the most hearts are admitted to be the most agile guests present and are given the opportunity to show their speed in the next race. The couple who found the fewest hearts are the slowest so they must race against the winners. All players may then march by an impromptu refreshment committee and exchange their paper hearts for an equal number of candy ones.

*Progressive Hearts.* There should be a card table for each four guests and a score card for every player. Place on each table a set of six wooden cubes (one-half inch, home-made) and a small box to use in shaking the cubes. On the six sides of the cubes, the letters, H-E-A-R-T-S are written. Score slips should be placed on each table.

H .....	5 points
H-E .....	10 points
H-E-A .....	15 points
H-E-A-R .....	20 points
H-E-A-R-T .....	25 points
H-E-A-R-T-S .....	30 points
H-H-H .....	Lose everything.

The players are seated around the tables, partners facing. The tables are numbered from one up, number six being head table. The players take turns shaking the cubes on the table. They count the score as indicated from the score slip. When the required number of rounds have been

played, the partners from each table progress to the next table.

*Marooned.* The men form in one circle, the girls in another, the two circles being as far apart as possible so that the players in one circle cannot see who is marooned in the other. A large paper heart is laid out in each circle, or a heart may be drawn on the floor with chalk, so that the players cannot avoid stepping on it when racing around. Players must walk across the heart and not jump through or around it. When the music starts they walk around in a circle. When the whistle blows as a signal for the music to stop the player on the heart is taken out by the leader. These two prisoners, one from each circle, are made partners. This continues until all have been marooned and made partners.

*Cupid Toss.* In this game a low basket is placed about four feet away from a chalked throwing line at the opposite end of the room. At a given signal the leader of each team runs to the line, tosses his heart into the basket, runs back to the starting line, touches off player number two who tosses his heart into the basket, etc. The team finishing first wins. The heart of each player must go into the basket and he returns to his own line.

*Valentine Puzzle.* Paste five or more unique Valentines on a piece of cardboard. Cut them in small pieces in picture puzzle fashion. There should be five or more tables with not more than five players to a table and a puzzle for each table. Each player takes his turn putting the puzzle together. A member of the group acts as timekeeper, marking down the time required by each one. The player who does it most quickly is winner at his table. The winner from the various tables then carry on an elimination contest to determine the champion.

*Love Is Blind.* Each man is given a heart on which he writes his name. These are pinned on a sheet drawn taut across one end of the room, each girl blindfolded unpins a heart. The leader proclaims the lucky man who in turn claims his partner for the next dance or game.

*Hunting Hearts.* A large number of hearts of different colors are hidden around the room, some of them are numbered, others not. At a given

signal, all players hunt for the hearts and as soon as they are found the players trade off hearts for the colors or numbers they think are recognized. The values of the colors or the meaning of the numbers are unknown to the players until the trading is over. The leader then announces the values and the winner is awarded the prize.

#### Score:

Each white — 1 point 7 adds 50 to score  
 Each Brown — 5 points 11 doubles his score  
 Each blue — 2 points 13 takes 20 from score  
 Each red — 10 points 15 makes the owner  
 win if he is otherwise the lower.

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## An Essay Contest on the Right Use of Leisure

The Committee on Recreation and Right Use of Leisure of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, with the chairmen of the Board of Public Welfare and the Division of Community Service, have announced a plan for a prize essay contest on the subject, "The Right Use of Leisure," as it relates to the free time of adults. The contest is open to all members of clubs holding a membership in the state federations or the General Federation of Women's Clubs. It will be conducted by states beginning in a district or region where a committee designated by the president of the district or region shall have charge of the contest. This committee will make the final decision on the winning essay in the district or region. The essay judged best will be sent to the chairman of the committee in the state having charge of the contest and this committee will make the final decision on the winning essay in the state. A committee of five from the General Federation will make the final awards and the essay winning first prize will be read at the biennial convention to be held in Denver in June, 1930. The essays must be limited to 1000 words. Awards will be made on originality of thought and value to the greatest number in the suggestions offered. Further information may be secured from Mrs. John S. Maurer, Chairman, Committee on Recreation and the Right Use of Leisure, 6546 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

# A Mountain Playground

By

EUPHEMIA HOLDEN

*Tryon, North Carolina*

Among the 10,000 inhabitants of Polk county in western North Carolina are at least five classes of people differing sharply in type, though the same race and nationality. There are the farmers and inhabitants of the smaller towns who retain to some extent the intense individualism of the southern highlander, operatives in the mills who are all native stock but whose occupation has changed their point of view, mill owners and merchants to whom opportunity for meeting the world has given a wider outlook, northerners and southerners who occupy either permanent or winter homes, and the tourists who come and go in the season.

Before the establishment of Harmon field, near the town of Tryon, these various elements seldom met or mingled. A few times during the war Red Cross work or a liberty loan drive brought some association, but the barriers went up again when the patriotic impetus had passed. Even the Harmon Foundation's assistance in starting playgrounds might not have brought action if a part of a large corn field in the Pacolet valley had not already been leased to the Horse Show Association, which has conducted successfully two or three shows. When the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce read that the Harmon Foundation cooperating with the P. R. A. A., was announcing a second annual series of awards, he enlisted the support of his organization, secured an option on the corn field and eventually secured \$2,000, which paid for eight acres of the corn-field immediately adjoining the Horse Show grounds. This land was part of an old plantation, one of the few in the mountains which existed in the ante-bellum period and had been worked by slave labor. To this purchase was later added seven and three-fourths acres leased by the Horse Show and about two and a half acres on the other side used for parking space.

There was, of course, the usual chorus of reactionaries. "What do we need with a playground in the country; it's all playground down here. You'll never get anybody to come. Where will

you get the money?" But these skeptics have been silenced by the accomplishments up to date. Ten and one-half acres, unencumbered, have been deeded to the town; interest payments have been met on the remaining seven and three-fourths acres. Over \$2,000 has been raised by comparatively small donations and used to grade, level and seed the land, build a pavilion for exhibits, and a rest house for women and children. Bleachers have been purchased for ball games and play equipment for the younger children.

A county fair last October brought out 800 to 1,000 people from all over the county. Two Fourth of July rallies attracted an equal number while the spring track meet drew out an even larger crowd. During two spring and fall seasons innumerable football and baseball games have been played, including league games with teams coming from a radius of thirty or forty miles.

The eighteen acres are being considered as a unit and a complete layout has been made. This includes a half mile and a straight track for athletic events, a fence, tennis and basketball courts, a baseball diamond for the smaller boys and the development of a playground for little children which is in a lovely, natural grove beside the Pacolet River.

But the mere securing and equipping of a beautiful place would mean little had it not accomplished more spiritual benefits. Juvenile delinquency has decreased during the last two years, and while there are several contributing causes to this improvement, the county playground claims its share. The older classes in the schools are larger because of the interest in athletics and boys from the largest mill community who formerly spent their leisure hanging about the public highway are organized in baseball and football teams and are busily engaged in challenging other teams.

While most of the money has been contributed by the winter residents and citizens of Tryon,

*(Concluded on page 648)*

## Book Reviews

**OFFICIAL HANDBOOK—ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, 1929-30.** Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 115R. American Sports Publishing Company, New York. Price, 25c.

The 1929-30 Official Handbook prepared by the National Section on Women's Athletics of the A. P. E. A. is one which recreation workers will find very valuable. It contains the official rules for aquatics, track and field, volley ball and directions for over twenty athletic games. In addition, the policies of the Section are included as well as a number of articles on various phases of the athletic program.

**MINIATURE AIRCRAFT—HOW TO MAKE AND HOW TO FLY THEM.** By Day and Vincent. Published by Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. Price, 80c.

The purpose of this book is to provide an inexpensive and convenient book of practical working directions for boys and girls and all others who make miniature airplanes. The last three chapters contain rules and contests and other information needed not only for boys and girls but for teachers and officials who organize classes in miniature aircraft and conduct tournaments and contests.

**MAKING FRIENDS IN MUSIC LAND.** By Lota Spell. University of Texas, Austin, Texas. Price, 20c.

This class room text in music appreciation is the fourth of a series issued by the Interscholastic League Bureau, Division of Extension, for the purpose of supplying teachers and pupils with material in story form to be used in connection with the musical selections studied in the state music memory contest in 1928-1929. It contains suggestions for familiarizing the children with themes, dance forms and instruments of the orchestra. It also contains the history of over twenty selections.

**HOW TO PLAY GOLF.** Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 4B. American Sports Publishing Company. Price, \$50.

This new edition of *How to Play Golf* has been designed primarily for initial instruction in the game. The compiler, Mr. Innis Brown, has tried to present in brief form the essentials of instruction which will serve to start the beginner on right methods when lessons from a proficient instructor are not available. As an additional feature there have been included illustrated lessons by Sol Metzger whose work has been syndicated in newspapers throughout the country. Each lesson is accompanied by a drawing by Mr. Metzger.

**OFFICIAL RULES FOR SWIMMING, DIVING AND WATER GAMES—1930.** Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 91R. American Sports Publishing Company, New York. Price, 25c.

Swimming, fancy diving, intercollegiate water polo and international or soccer polo are considered in this booklet. In addition there are reviews of the season, All-American Intercollegiate and Interscholastic rankings and historical and statistical data.

**OFFICIAL INTERCOLLEGIATE SOCCER GUIDE, 1929-30.** Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 108R. American Sports Publishing Company, New York. Price, 25c

The new guide reports very definite progress in the playing of soccer in colleges, forty-three colleges having played last year as compared with thirty-seven in the fall of 1927. The handbook tells in detail this development and gives the rules of the game.

**SOCER FOR WOMEN.** Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 116R. American Sports Publishing Company, New York City. Price, 25c

The Soccer Committee of the National Section on Women's Athletics of the A. P. E. A. is performing a real service in preparing this handbook with its articles on soccer and the rules of soccer for women and their interpretation.

## Character Building

Dr. Frank Cody, Superintendent of Schools, Detroit, Michigan, in the November, 1929, issue of the *Human Relations* magazine tells of the work of the Pathfinders of America which for several years has been functioning in the public schools of Detroit as an auxiliary agency.

"The Pathfinders," writes Dr. Cody, "have worked out a very definite system of instruction in moral training, and a number of men and women devote their entire time to lecturing and discussing with groups of children questions of morals, ethics, and right living. These representatives visit the schools once a month and are allotted a period of thirty or forty minutes in which to pursue their work. They use the direct method and aim to analyze and interpret various life situations. Their discussions of ideals of thinking and behavior crystallize into slogans and maxims, and, on the whole, they offer students something which is rather unique.

"The pupils take part enthusiastically in the discussions, and a visitor to these classes has reported that in each case he saw children who gave rapt attention and responded eagerly at every opportunity, furnishing from their own experiences intelligent illustrations of the principles under consideration.

"Each lecture or lesson deals primarily with some one moral virtue or truth, illustrated by the lives of the children themselves. Contrasts are made between the consequences of good and bad conduct, success and failure, righteousness and criminality. Pupils are called upon to make brief comments and to ask questions on the lecture itself. The procedure is similar to the socialized classroom method now followed in most of our modern schools.

"Some of the topics considered are Truth, Cause and Effect, Habit, Mastership and Self Control, Our Value to Society, Service, Individual Efforts Combined, Price Tags. Distrust and misunderstanding are explained as the causes of much unrest, misery and discord; narrow mindedness is called one of the factors in crime and war. Stress is placed on sportsmanship with its implication of respect for and obedience to law, regard for one's fellows, consideration for the rights of others, and an ability to see a situation from many different angles. The boy or girl who learns these things on the school field is better equipped to play the game of life more fairly."

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Box 510 Chicago, Illinois

### Recreation and Farming (Continued from page 619)

to let 'em come till I saw for myself what it was like."

At home the next day, the man said to his wife: "Ma, where's my suit of clothes?"

"Well, well, I've been trying for fifteen years to get you to wear that suit. What do you want it for now?"

"I want it for the institute."

"Um, I guess you met some woman down there that took your fancy?"

"No, ma, nothing like that. I'm going to the institute again and, what's more, you and the girls are going with me. So find that suit."

That evening the whole family played and enjoyed themselves hugely. And they didn't miss a night while the institute lasted.

With this final evidence, I rest my case. I think you will agree that any force powerful enough to induce a man to give up overalls for a best suit, when his wife had failed after fifteen years' effort, is a force that can make a mighty contribution to the business of living and of making a living down on the farm.

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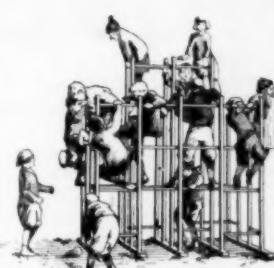
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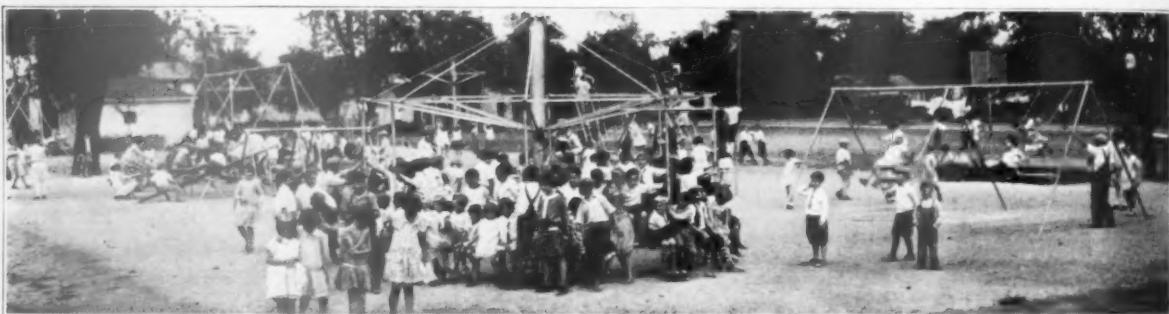
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An advertisement for Diamond Horseshoe Pitching Shoes. It features a small framed picture of two people playing horseshoes, a horseshoe in a tray, and the word "DIAMOND" in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below "DIAMOND" is the text "Official Pitching Shoes". At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text and the company's name and address.
 

DIAMOND Official Pitching Horseshoes conform exactly to the requirements of the National Horseshoe Pitching Association. Professionals, amateurs, women and children, prefer Diamonds because of their balance and exactness. Drop forged from high grade steel, they won't chip or break. Diamond accessories include stakes, stake holders, official courts, carrying cases, score pads and rule books.

DIAMOND CALK HORSESHOE COMPANY  
4610 Grand Avenue, Duluth, Minn.

## Los Angeles to Have Greek Theatre (Continued from page 630)

capacity of forty-two cars. On the left as one enters the garage will be a two-room emergency hospital, so located as to make it readily accessible. On the right of the tunnel entrance a large room will be set aside for the storage of properties. Provision has been made immediately in front of the tunnel entrance for a large freight elevator. The north side of the garage will house transformers and other electrical equipment. Adjoining this there will be several rooms, one to be used by the ushers, and others arranged as a kitchen and dining room for the convenience of the cast. The entire section along the west side of the garage will provide public rest rooms and comfort station facilities.

Beneath the stage will be found large dressing rooms for the chorus and adjoining them costume, sewing and cutting rooms. The orchestra room and toilet accommodations will also be located beneath the stage. Provision has been made on either side of the stage for scenery rooms about eighteen feet wide and fifty-four feet in depth. The large panel on the side wall on either side of the stage will be so constructed as to per-

mit of its being revolved in such a manner as to allow large pieces of scenery to be easily moved upon the stage. The stage floor, or first floor, has a spacious lobby and adjoining it is the business manager's office on one side and a production manager's office on the other. Four dressing rooms are also provided. A large rehearsal room, dressing room, organ and radio rooms will occupy the second floor.

The structure is so designed as to permit the greatest possible efficiency in the presentation of any type of production from symphony concerts to pageants of all kinds. It is hoped that the summer of 1930 will find the theatre ready for use.

### Block Group Play

(Continued from page 638)

"Without question, the most difficult problem which organized block group play presents to those who are endeavoring to promote this activity, is proper leadership. Perhaps it would be discouraging to say that leaders of block play groups are born and not made and perhaps many groups of children would be deprived of happy experiences if this were generally believed. It is true, however, that the leader of a play group must possess certain qualities and if they come as natural talents so much the better. In any case the leader must possess one talent, without which he cannot hope to succeed with this work. He must love children.—A block play group leader may be either man or woman, young or old, but he or she must always be able to see the child's viewpoint and at the same time be wise and practical. The wise leader will avoid activities that cost money, for the real joys of childhood come from innocent pleasures that cost nothing. I attended a play school for mothers conducted by the Community Service in our district last year, and one of the most interesting things which I gained from meeting with that group of mothers was the answers that they gave to the question, 'what do you think are the happiest memories of your childhood. Out of about thirty experiences related, only one cost a cent of money—that was the 'Real Circus' in the 'Big Tent.'

"While the term block group play is quite new the activity itself is as old as the first tribe of human being that gathered together in community life. There have always been play groups, and natural leaders have had their part in directing this play. However, in this highly organized age



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is all that is needed to care for the smaller tots from 3 to 8 years old. The same construction as its big brother but built especially for the little ones. A ground space of 5 x 7 feet is sufficient to set this up in.

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**OUTDOOR BASEBALL FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN.** Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 121R. Published by the American Sports Publishing Company, New York. Price, 25c.

The Official Baseball Guide of the National Section on Women's Athletics of the A. P. E. A. has appeared for the first time as a separate handbook. The chief purpose of this edition is to simplify the teaching of baseball so that more physical education instructors will have confidence and enthusiasm in teaching the game particularly in the elementary school program.

Recreation workers will find the rules and the special articles on various phases of the game very helpful to them.

it is necessary that even home play must be carried on in an orderly manner and at the same time be protected from the dangers of mechanical inventions. Organized block group play will no doubt become a helpful activity, and will solve many of the problems of home play in fast growing districts where play centers were forgotten in the building program, and at the same time help to form those wonderful memories so dear to the normal man and woman which seem to grow sweeter as the years go by."

## A Mountain Playground

(Continued from page 643)

many who were unable to give cash furnished labor and materials. The shrubs and trees which the local Garden Club helped to place were the gifts of a number of citizens. The town of Tryon has loaned grading machinery and brought the town water supply to the field.

A market day is being planned for next October instead of the regular county fair. Farmers from the county are being asked to bring their best produce to be sold to customers from the towns. This event will be followed by the celebration of Home Coming Week and the dedication of Harmon Field. For entertainment, races, a pet show, and a choir contest are planned.

## Officers and Directors of the Playground and Recreation Association of America

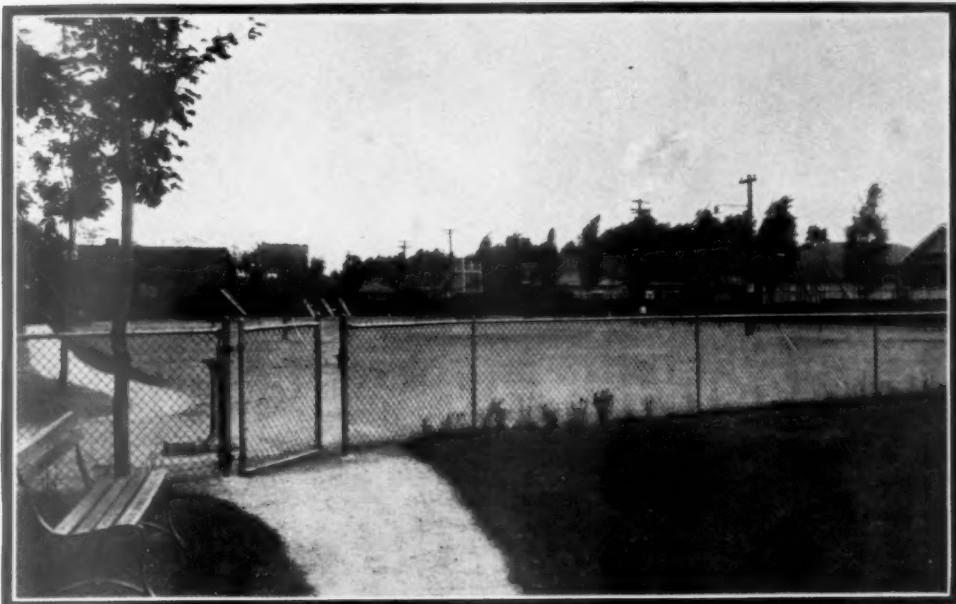
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# Do your children play



Portage Park District Playground, Chicago, Ill.

## outside or inside?

**O**UTSIDE—where swift moving traffic is likely to cause serious injury—where neighbors are annoyed and gardens are trampled.

**I**NSIDE—where youngsters can run and play to their hearts' content—safe inside well protected ground?

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# White House Recreation Conference

On the morning of November 15th the newspapers reported that the night preceding, the problems of organized play among the children and youth of America were discussed by President Hoover and Mrs. Hoover with leaders in recreation activities who were guests at the White House for dinner. The recreation leaders were invited to the White House so that the President and Mrs. Hoover could discuss informally with them the status of their work and their plans for the future. Secretary of the Interior Wilbur was among the other guests.

The President and Mrs. Hoover have been active for a number of years in the promotion of additional facilities for recreation.

President Hoover in his Annual Message to Congress announced that he is planning to call a nation-wide conference on recreation.